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INSIDE

LOCAL

Tan Siu Lin Foundation donates shirts to 11 public elementary schools. ➤ PAGE 8

ASIA

Malaysia's PM says the search for the missing jetliner would press on. ➤ PAGE 21

LIFE & STYLE

Two legendary stars get to play in-laws in new "Game of Thrones." ➤ PAGE 24

WITH H1B APPLICATIONS BEING DENIED

2 new prevailing wage surveys eyed

» Chamber of Commerce, Department of Commerce seek Interior funding

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Applications in the CNMI for U.S. work visas such as H1B have been denied over a lack of a new prevailing wage survey data, said the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which is now seeking to update a 2011 survey. The Department of Commerce is also seeking to update its own 3-year-old survey.

A survey of wages, salaries and benefits—oftentimes referred to as "prevail-

See WAGE on Page 4

David Sablan takes helm of new CUC board

JAYSON CAMACHO
The newly reconstituted board of directors of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. holds its first official meeting at CUC's conference room yesterday.

» New chair vows to revive people's confidence in utilities agency

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The newly revived board of directors of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has chosen David Sablan as its chairman during the body's first official meeting at CUC's conference room yesterday.

Sablan, a native of Guam, served as board chair for seven years at the Guam Power Authority, which has a clientele base of about 40,000 and generated a total capacity of 600MW.

See DAVID on Page 4

CAREER FAIR
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A representative of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence answers questions of students who participated in yesterday's Career Fair of the Northern Marianas College.

See story on Page 5

CUC penalties at $64.3M

» 5 stipulated orders being addressed by CUC
» Timeline to completely get out of SO unknown

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The cash-strapped Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has accrued $64.325 million in fines and penalties for failing to timely address the requirements of stipulated orders mandated by the federal government, a substantial amount that the agency has no ability to satisfy if collection is so ordered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher made this known to the agency's newly functioning board of directors yesterday, adding that CUC is currently addressing not only two but five stipulated orders.

The $64.325 million represent penalties that have piled up since the stipulated orders were issued five years ago. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief

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Alleged leader of 'ice' suppliers pleads guilty. PAGE 3
Ex-police sergeant gets 6-month prison term. PAGE 6

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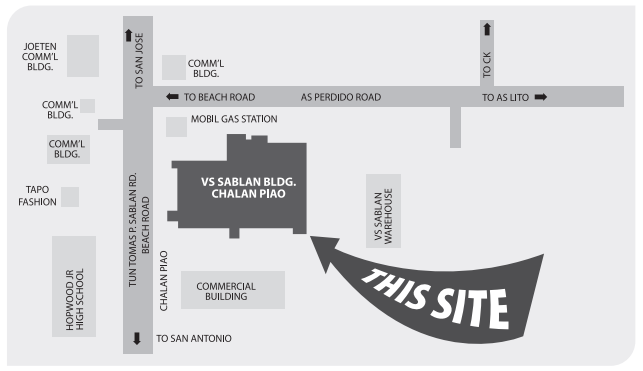

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... MAKE IT A HABIT

'Telesource a public utility under CPUC'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission put off making a decision on the change order for Telesource CNMI's contract—called Change Order No. 5—pending further assessment. The commission made this known in its latest order, placing the agenda on its next regulatory meeting in May.

CPUC's decision was result of a legal opinion that determined that Telesource is a "public utility" that must be regulated by the commission.

"Telesource CNMI Inc. is a 'public utility' within the meaning of Section 8402(e) of Public Law 15-35. It is, therefore, subject to the commission's regulatory jurisdiction," states the commission's order.

At the February CPUC meeting, the commission advised its hearing examiner to examine whether Telesource's stock divestiture to Marianas Energy Technology Inc. required prior CPUC approval. It was also ordered to examine whether CPUC has the authority to reconsider an earlier decision made in November 2011 that provisionally approved the change order.

To determine whether Telesource's stock divestiture required CPUC approval, two steps have to be determined first: whether Telesource is a public utility and whether the sale of Telesource's stock by the Pernix Group to Micronesia Technology Inc. constituted an event that required CPUC approval.

In the opinion issued by CPUC legal counsel George Anthony Long, it was concluded that Telesource is a public utility that subjects the company to the duties and obligations imposed on a public utility and regulated entities.

Because of this determination, if CPUC determines that the Telesource contract will not modify or change the rate structure being charged to customers, then its approval is unnecessary.

If CPUC concludes that the contract may modify or change the rate structure being charged to customers, then it must evaluate the contract pursuant to applicable legislative standard and decide to either approve or disapprove the contract.

Alleged leader of 'ice' suppliers pleads guilty

The man tagged by authorities as the alleged leader of a group of methamphetamine or "ice" suppliers on Saipan pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court as part of a deal with the U.S. government.

Xing Bo Fang, 36, pleaded guilty to a count of conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a $10-million fine, and a $100 special assessment fee.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona accepted Fang's guilty plea and the plea agreement.

Fang will be sentenced on July 11, 2014. Attorney David Banes served as his court-appointed counsel.

Under the plea deal, the court may order Fang to pay restitution in the amount of $2,700 to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Fang shall also immediately forfeit to the U.S. all of his right, title, and interest to $8,500 representing the sum equal to the proceeds derived from the offense.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton stated that, according to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Fang sold about 98.7 grams of 98.0 percent pure methamphetamine hydrochloride to a confidential source of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration on Dec. 27, 2013, at the instruction of Fang's co-defendant, Yu Hua Wang. Fang himself personally handled the drug and handed it over to the DEA confidential source.

Naughton said that, while the confidential source did not give any money to Fang or Wang on that day, the confidential source later gave Wang $8,500 in U.S. government "buy money."

Before that, on Nov. 18, 2013, Fang sold 14.6 grams of 98.5 percent pure methamphetamine hydrochloride to the same DEA confidential source for $2,700, Naughton said.

Fang and Wang were among seven persons arrested in February by joint local and federal law enforcements for alleged distribution of "ice." Wang is being tagged as the alleged second-in-command of an organization of drug suppliers on Saipan.

The indictment charged Fang and Wang with conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine and distribution of 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. In addition, Wang was charged with distribution of methamphetamine.

The U.S. government also wants to forfeit Wang's leasehold interest in a real property on Sailing Drive in Dandan, a white 2004 Lexus ES330 four-door sedan, and Fang's and Wang's $11,400 cash, upon their conviction. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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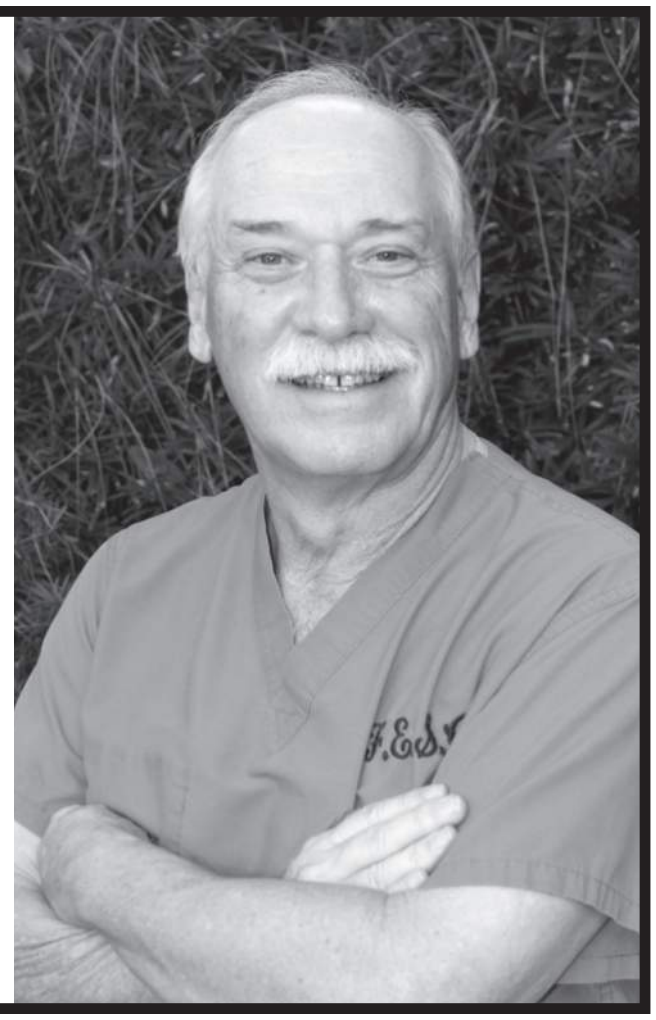

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings going out to si Supermom, Mrs. Rebecca "Bekke" Camacho, who celebrates her "21st" birthday today, April 4! Cheers to you and many more years to come, Dao! We love you *bula-la*! Have a great one! Coming out from your Misadventurers and the SATC Crew!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Manglona approves $2.4M judgment in Kim's suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has approved the jury's judgment holding attorney Ramon K. Quichocho, his wife Frances, his law firm, and their company Karissa LLC liable to pay $2.4 million in damages to businesswoman Jung Ja Kim, who sued them for racketeering and other claims.

Manglona also approved the jury's verdict that found Kim liable to pay Ramon Quichocho and his law firm $48,221.67 in legal fees.

The judge said under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the court "must promptly approve the form of the judgment…when…the jury returns a special verdict…."

She said approval requires examining the consistency of the special verdict itself.

After approval, Manglona said, the clerk "must promptly enter" judgment.

In this case, Manglona said all aspects of the verdict, save potentially one, are consistent and support findings of liability.

She noted that one potentially troublesome aspect is the conversion claim for Latte Stone LLC. The verdict form itself, the judge said, inadvertently omitted a place for the jury to formally render its verdict on this claim.

It is this conversion claim in which the jurors awarded Kim $1,551,828.

"But this poses no bar," said Manglona, explaining that the verdict form need only "give the instructions and explanations necessary to enable the jury to make its findings," and the answered verdict form need only "conclusively dispose of the issues submitted to the jury."

Manglona said both are satisfied here.

She said the jury instructions explained how to analyze the conversion claim, which alleged that both Latte Stone and Tan Dingo LLC were converted.

Manglona said the verdict form then reiterated that this conversion claim is for both Tan Dingo and Latte Stone.

Manglona said for whatever reason, the verdict form only included a place for entering verdict on the conversion of Tan Dingo, while only directing the jurors to a non-existent section "B. Latte Stone."

"But this does not change the fact that the jurors received sufficient instructions and explanations necessary to render its verdict," the judge said.

The jury, Manglona said, also found that Latte Stone was converted.

PENALTIES

From Page 1

Judge Alex R. Munson signed stipulated orders for CUC in March 2009, setting the requirements and deadlines for CUC to meet. These orders represent the agreement between the CNMI and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on how CUC will come into compliance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

From about $45 million in accrued penalties reported in January this year, the amount has jumped to $64.325 million. Records of as of January show that CUC was only made to pay a minimal amount of about $169,000, which were paid in two separate occasions in 2010.

According to Fletcher, although EPA hasn't sought to collect the amount, this doesn't necessarily mean that the accrual is waived for CUC.

"They haven't sought to collect so there's no waiving necessarily and they always retain that option. They know that we don't have the money," Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said that CUC has been able to build a "better relationship" with EPA and he pins his hopes on the federal agency's consideration of CUC's situation. He cited that in the past, "there have been threats and accusations" made between and among the parties, which just showed the kind of relationship then.

"We worked hard to improve that relationship. [As you know] there has not been trust from EPA and CUC in the past. We built that trust now because we do perform and we take our job very seriously, trying our best to do what is necessary to abide by the stipulated orders," Fletcher said.

In yesterday's board meeting, CUC counsel James Sirok disclosed that there's not only two stipulated orders that CUC is currently working on but five. Stipulated Orders 1 and 2 are the main orders, while the other three are byproducts of these two main orders. He did not elaborate.

Fletcher explained that besides the first stipulated orders issued in 2009, three additional "joint stipulation" were later issued, including one for oil handling, changes in the dates for some deliverables, and clarification.

$64.3M penalties

Records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* disclosed that EPA assessed the following penalties on CUC as of Sept. 30, 2013:

- $9.2 million for secondary containment;
- $7.5 million for facility response plan requirement;
- $7.650 million for tank system integrity testing;
- $7.650 million for Power Plant 4 work plan;
- $7.5 million for engineering section;
- $3.545 million for drinking water and wastewater division manager;
- $3.114 million for wellhead sanitation;
- $3.845 million for organizational evaluation ad reorganization plan;
- $3.095 million for wastewater treatment plant operation supervisor;
- $2.324 million for water meter installation;
- $2.144 million for drinking water meter reading;
- $2.384 million for chlorination program;
- $1.614 million for quarterly progress reports;
- $1.260 million for executive director;
- $785,000 for interim financial plan;
- $660,000 for technical manager for oil;
- $590,000 for chief financial officer;
- $560,000 for health and safety plan; and
- $155,000 for deputy executive director.

'EPA can always turn around'

Fletcher disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that EPA—at any time—can always turn around and charge CUC for millions of dollars incurred in penalties as well as for projects that EPA itself is doing for CUC with the help of federal funds.

A good example, he said, is the soil cleanup and remediation project that EPA did for CUC. "We're talking about millions of dollars on this project that they could turn around and charge us in the future to recover those costs," said Fletcher, pointing out that CUC wants to maintain its good partnership with EPA.

CUC board chair David Sablan vowed to keep that partnership with EPA. "We certainly don't want to enter any more penalties and fines so definitely, we're going to do what is require for us to do but we will make sure there's a balance," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

During the meeting, Sablan hinted at the possibility of asking EPA for a waiver on these accrued penalties. He hopes that by banking on its good relationship with EPA, consideration may be accommodated for CUC.

'Time to get out'

Fletcher also made it clear yesterday that CUC has no sure answer at this time on when it will completely get out of the stipulated orders.

"We're running second base now [on stipulated orders], but as to when we can get out of it? I don't know…" he told the board, saying there are items in the orders that would take years to completely address.

However, "with the right investment, CUC can get along." Fletcher revealed that what CUC is using at present to address stipulated orders are grant monies totaling some $10 million yearly.

Marianas Agupa lines up citizens group as guest

Marianas Agupa Radio will feature two members of the Citizens for Change of Article 12. Efrain Camacho, P.E. and former senator Frica Pangelinan will appear this Saturday April 5, 2014, between 10:30am and 11am to talk about the signature drive petition in order to provide today's generation with an opportunity to decide whether or not to keep Article 12 or to remove it.

Listeners on Saipan, Tinian and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show (234-5929 or use Marianas Agupa Facebook account via instant messaging).

The Chamorro radio talk show is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Simultaneous streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, contact Manglona at 287-4536. ***(PR)***

DAVID

From Page 1

Citing his experience, Sablan is confident that he can bring to the table valuable ideas that would benefit the utilities corporation and its customers.

The CUC board has one seat that requires the appointment of somebody from outside the CNMI. Gov. Eloy S. Inos picked Sablan for that post.

"It's very interesting to be back in the utility board and I do hope we can take care of our people and our customers," he told colleagues, describing current CUC power rates as "very high" and adversely impact everybody on the island.

When asked about the top priorities of his leadership, Sablan said: "The main thing is to reinstill confidence in our utilities. In going around, people have a lot of negative things against CUC. Some are probably justified but some are there because they just don't fully understand what we're doing here at CUC," he told *Saipan Tribune* during a break at yesterday's meeting.

Sablan acknowledged that it would take time for the new board to absorb all information about CUC. He assured, though, that "this new board is more compassionate to customers."

"It will take us some time to absorb all of the issues, but once we fully understand them such as the fuel oil purchase contract, operations in various divisions, then we are going to make some adjustments. Our main objective is to try to bring the cost of power down," he assured.

Sablan believes that CUC's current water and wastewater rates are "probably reasonable" compared to the power side. Fuel cost comprises 60 percent of a customer's bill.

Besides reducing power costs, the new board also aims to continually improve CUC's customer service and Sablan cited the need for necessary staff training, especially for frontliners who are the face of CUC.

Sablan said he is committed to bringing in "fresh air" to CUC customers.

Since 2009, CUC has been struggling to address court-mandated requirements, called "stipulated orders." The new board, however, vowed that all deliverables will be addressed to prevent any potential court takeover of CUC.

At yesterday's first board meeting, Diego Songao was selected as vice chairman. He is the current chairman of the Commonwealth Development Authority, which has $45 million in preferred stock in CUC.

Sablan and Songao are joined on the board by Christopher Concepcion and former NMI Retirement Fund trustee Adelina Roberto.

CUC was well represented in the board's maiden session yesterday. In attendance were executive director Alan Fletcher, chief financial officer Charles Warren, CUC counsel James Sirok, and about 20 CUC leadership team members from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

WAGE

From Page 1

ing wage survey"—measures base rates of pay and benefits of private and public employers in the CNMI.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Commerce separately requested the U.S. Department of the Interior for funding to conduct their own 2014 survey of wages, salaries and benefits that, among other things, are critical in U.S. work visa applications from CNMI employers.

"The Department of Labor is already denying applications based solely on the lack of a prevailing wage survey publication within a 24-month period," Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan said in a March 31 letter to acting U.S. Interior assistant secretary for insular areas Lori Faeth, seeking funding for a 2014 prevailing wage survey.

In 2011, Interior approved a $16,150 technical assistance grant to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to support its prevailing wage survey.

In a phone interview yesterday, Sablan said they communicated their intent with their 2011 survey contractor, The Guam Employers Council, and estimate the total cost of preparing a 2014 survey to be "approximately $21,000."

"We are hoping that the Interior will once again award a grant for us to pursue a new survey," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed yesterday that the "Department of Commerce has submitted a proposal to Interior to fund a new prevailing wage study."

"The Commonwealth is currently awaiting action from DOI on its proposal," Demapan said.

Sablan said the Saipan Chamber of Commerce has been "inundated with requests to update the 2011 Survey."

"One of the most urgent reasons for this survey is that the CNMI depends on H-1B workers for many of the available mid-management employment positions. These jobs cannot easily be replaced by local hires until our population has obtained the education and skills to qualify them for these skilled jobs," he told Faeth, who just recently visited the CNMI for the first time along with Office of Insular Affairs director Nik Pula.

Sablan said the Chamber appreciates any assistance Faeth's office may provide in support of their request for $21,000 funding assistance.

"Survey results provide a benchmark and an opportunity to realize the effects the minimum wage adjustments have had on salaries and benefits through a new survey," Sablan said in his two-page letter to Faeth.

The Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, said it would follow the same formula that resulted in completing the 2011 survey with satisfactory results.

Sablan said the Chamber will use the Standard Occupation Classification published by the U.S. Department of Labor as the standard for the job codes, titles and descriptions, as Labor recommended.

A prevailing wage is different from—and is generally higher than—the minimum wage, which is currently $5.55 an hour in the CNMI.

Without a CNMI prevailing wage survey, CNMI employers have been forced to pay the rates similar to those of other U.S. states and territories such as Guam that are much higher and not reflective of the conditions in the local economy. Guam wages alone have long been much higher than those in the CNMI.

Hundreds attend NMC Career Fair

About 400 jobseekers attended yesterday's Northern Marianas College Career Fair.

According to NMC career services manager Neda Deleon Guerrero, 20 businesses and government agencies participated in the event to meet with potential job applicants and to promote career opportunities.

"We are extremely happy with the turnout this year," Deleon Guerrero said. "Thank you to all the businesses, offices and organizations that participated in this year's Career Fair."

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority also provided 22 jobseekers free rides to and from the college.

"We got their contacts, number, and location of where they live so if they get hired for the jobs that they found at the Career Fair, we can provide transportation for them," said special assistant for public transportation Thomas Camacho.

COTA also put up a booth at the Career Fair to look for potential hires.

"Prior to the launching of the Fixed-Flex Route System, we will need at least 20 to 21 transit operators with one transit supervisor. They will also require training," Camacho said.

The CNMI Head Start Program under the Public School System was seeking potential applicants for classroom teachers on Saipan and instructors for Tinian. One company, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, had eight openings for Joeten outlets on Saipan.

NMC also had potential positions for jobseekers interested in program coordination and for a financial aid specialist. Duty Free Shoppers Saipan came looking for temporary sales associates, according to one of company's representatives, Amanda Sablan.

"This was a great event," Sablan said. "It was a good way to gather people who are looking for jobs and it's also good way to show the opportunities available."

Tyce Mister, program coordinator for Marianas High School's Cooperative Education and Training program, was pleased with the turnout.

"I want to thank NMC for hosting this wonderful event for our students and the community. MHS Co-op students will be further exposed to future or potential jobs and maybe start up a dialogue with the employers here," Mister said.

Allan Ocaya, 17, who is in 11th grade at MHS, said he was there to explore new opportunities and was interested in a job at DFS.

Another 11th grader at MHS, David Litulumar, 17, said, "I went to the career fair at Hyatt Regency Saipan and gained a lot of experience and wanted more so I came here." He was interested in positions at NMC and PSS but due to the necessity of a degree, he opted for Hyatt and Pacific Islands Club.

Paul Mariano, a liberal arts major at NMC, said that he enjoyed the event. "It was easier walking around to different tables to see the companies rather than driving to each place," he said.

In the past NMC held its annual career fair to mainly assist graduating students and graduates of NMC to find employment. It was later opened to other members of the community to benefit both employers and jobseekers.

Other employers that participated were Labor's Employment Services and the Workforce Investment Agency, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Sorensen Media Group, CDI Workforce Development, Triple J Saipan, Office of Personnel Management, Marianas Health, Pacific Islands Club, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., CNMI Head Start Program, Public School System, YCO, Pacifica Insurance, Northern Marianas College Human Resources, College Access Challenge Grant, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

The NMC Career Fair is supported by the College Access Challenge Grant program. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

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PIC to host Hafa Dai 5K Fun Run

Pacific Islands Club will be holding its Hafa Adai 5K Fun Run on April 26 and proceeds from the event will go to a good cause.

Speaking at Tuesday's Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan, PIC sports, entertainment, and activities director Glenn Policare said the event will directly benefit the Salvation Army and indirectly the Public School System

According to Policare, public schools that send the most participants to the inaugural Hafa Adai 5K would go home with $500 in cash and brand new sporting equipment.

He said only one school out of the three public high schools competing will take the prize. The two junior high schools will vie for the top place. The top two elementary schools that participate will go home with the incentive as well.

"This is an incentive for the kids to get out there," Policare said.

As an added twist to the celebration of spring, volunteers will throw "Holi Powder" on participants at every kilometer.

The colored Holi Powder is colored cornstarch and is 100 percent edible and biodegradable. It is not harmful if inhaled and will not permanently stain any surface.

Participants are advised that cameras, phones, and high tech devices are discouraged at the event as it may get covered in powder.

"You're going to start off with a white T-shirt and then you're going to end up like a bag of Skittles when you're done. It is the most amazing event you will see," Policare said.

The fun run will kick off at 7:30am and entry fee is only $10. Zumba warm-ups will also be included 15 minutes before the race.

Policare said $15,000 worth of prizes will be given out, including a roundtrip ticket to Japan and the first 50 finishers will be going home with Delta Airlines coupon vouchers. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

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Ex-police sergeant Tagabuel gets 6-month prison term

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday slapped a six-month prison term on former police sergeant Vicente O. Tagabuel, who used the butt end of a knife to pound on the roof of a car as his son and the son's girlfriend were sitting inside the vehicle.

Camacho sentenced the 55-year-old Tagabuel to the maximum of six months in prison each for two counts of assault and two counts of disturbing the peace. The sentences shall run concurrently. This means that Tagabuel's actual total prison term is six months.

He will serve the sentence without the possibility of parole. He was given credit for time served.

After the hearing, Camacho ordered the court marshals to immediately take Tagabuel to the Department of Corrections to start serving his sentence.

Assistant attorney general Chemere McField represented the government. Attorney Michael Dotts served as counsel for Tagabuel.

According to the plea agreement that Tagabuel signed with the government, he used the butt end of a knife to pound on the car with the while his son and his son's girlfriend were sitting inside. Tagabuel threatened to do them bodily harm via violence and thereby also disturbed their peace. No one was physically hurt.

On April 3, 2014, the Office of the Attorney General dismissed all felony charges in the case. This left four misdemeanor charges, which Tagabuel pleaded guilty to.

Camacho

The former police sergeant supposedly had other criminal case that happened in 2003, but on March 28, 2014, OAG dismissed it in its entirety.

Dotts previously told *Saipan Tribune* that the 2003 case was when Tagabuel drove his car and smashed into a picnic table and other items at a house.

In the 2012 case, Camacho initially rejected a proposed global plea agreement entered by the government and Tagabuel for the two criminal cases. Camacho said the proposed deal does not meet the court's standards and the CNMI community as the term of imprisonment is two years, a fraction of the possible maximum sentence for the crimes at issue.

The judge noted that at the time of the commission of at least one of the offenses, Tagabuel was a police sergeant with the Department of Public Safety, and that both offenses involved the use of a dangerous weapon.

According to court records, OAG and Tagabuel filed a global plea agreement on Jan. 29, 2013. That same day, the defendant pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon in 2012 case and disturbing the peace in 2003 case.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja entered judgment against the defendant, but deferred sentencing and the decision concerning acceptance or rejection of the plea deal until after the completion of a presentencing investigation report.

The sentencing was originally scheduled for April 16, 2013, but that hearing was vacated and rescheduled several times.

On Jan. 14, 2014, Naraja reassigned the matter to Camacho.

In a previous interview, Dotts stated that in the 2012 case, Tagabuel pounded the top of his car with a knife because he wanted his son to return the vehicle.

"It's a dispute between a father and son," the lawyer pointed out.

"He lost his job and lost his pension," said Dotts, adding that Tagabuel worked for 23 years in different capacities at DPS and at the Department of Corrections.

Court records show that in the 2003 case the OAG charged Tagabuel with assault with a dangerous weapon, assault, three counts of disturbing the peace, and two counts of criminal mischief for allegedly threatening Andrew Rapoulug with a machete on Dec. 29, 2002.

Tagabuel has previous conviction. In a 2011 criminal case, the OAG charged him with utility theft in the amount of $196.70. He pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay a $50 fine, $196.70 in restitution and a reconnection fee of $93.37 to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. There was no jail term.

In May 2012, Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman issued two bench warrants against Tagabuel—one in 2003 for not appearing at a review hearing in a small claim matter and one in 2004 for not appearing at a status conference in the 2003 criminal case.

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Kagman school vandalized twice

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vandals twice victimized a school campus in Kagman this month, news that has alarmed parents and schoolchildren alike.

Saipan Tribune learned that Kagman Elementary School first fell victim to unidentified vandals on March 22. They deliberately damage potted plants, water faucets, and littered the campus hallways. The second incident happened on Wednesday, April 2, causing further harm to the campus.

KagES Parents Teachers Association president Tony Magofna confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday what he described as a very alarming incident that, if not addressed, could result in more serious harm and damage not only to the school facilities but to the schoolchildren as well. KagES is home to 400 students from kindergarten to fifth grade.

Magofna said that PTA vice president Brenda Aguon informed him yesterday morning about the incident and that they plan to take up the matter at a parents' assembly, which is tentatively set for next week.

Magofna appealed to the community to step up to the plate and assist the schools in making sure that these kinds of incidents do not happen again. He is asking members of the community to come forward if they have information about the vandalisms and to help keep watch over the school.

Saipan Tribune learned that KagES has a security guard during daytime. It is believed that the vandals forcibly entered the campus through an open back door that connects to the junior and senior high schools in the area.

In a check at the school yesterday, school staffer Louie Bautista confirmed the series of vandalism on campus this month. For the past 10 years, Bautista shared that the two successive incidents were the first to occur in many years. But these latest acts, he said, are somewhat "bigger" in terms of damage compared to past acts of vandalism.

From just flipping bulletin boards in the past, the vandals have now turned to damaging school plants, pots, and pipes, he said.

A staff and a KagES parent also shared their sentiments on these latest incidents.

"The manner that it was accomplished showed extreme dislike for the school and disrespect for the staff, students, and the community. Because not only did they cause damage to the various potted plants and water faucets, they also took the time [and effort] to spread dirt all over the walls and floors throughout the campus. As previously mentioned this is actually the second time in about two weeks this has occurred, demonstrating that the only possible motive for these individuals is hatred toward the school and an effort to vent imaginary animosity directed at KagES," the parent said.

Saipan Tribune learned that the two incidents have been reported to the PSS central office and the Department of Public Safety.

Judge orders immediate extradition of property mogul Zeng

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered the U.S. government to expedite the extradition of property mogul and fugitive Wei Zeng to Hong Kong.

Manglona accepted and certified Zeng's affidavit of waiver of extradition during Tuesday afternoon's hearing.

Manglona informed Zeng that he will remain in custody until a removal order from the Secretary of State is received to transfer him to Hong Kong to face the charges pending against him in that jurisdiction.

On Tuesday, Zeng waived his extradition rights and agreed to be brought to Hong Kong. He signed the waiver as the U.S. Department of State has received a formal request from Hong Kong to extradite him.

Assistant U.S. attorney Jessica F. Cruz informed the court on Saturday about the U.S. Department of State's receipt of the extradition request.

Attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for Zeng, then filed in federal court Zeng's affidavit of waiver of extradition.

Zeng conceded that he is the individual against whom charges are pending in Hong Kong and for whom process is outstanding there.

In the U.S. government's notice of receipt, Cruz said that the U.S. Department of State received the extradition request prior to the March 28, 2014, deadline, in compliance with Article 10 of the extradition treaty between Hong Kong and the U.S.

Last February, Zeng pleaded not guilty to the indictment charging him with use of false document and misuse of passport.

The U.S. government also filed a criminal complaint, charging him with lying to a federal agency. He also pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Zeng arrived at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport last Jan. 16 from Shanghai, China. He allegedly used a different identity to try to enter Saipan.

The Hong Kong government is seeking Zeng's extradition due to a pending case against him. According to the U.S. government, Zeng allegedly bribed a Hong Kong bank official with HK 2.3 million ($300,000) in October 2010, as a reward for the bank official's help in a multi-million Hong Kong dollar loan extension application and for giving favorable credit information relating to Zeng's two companies. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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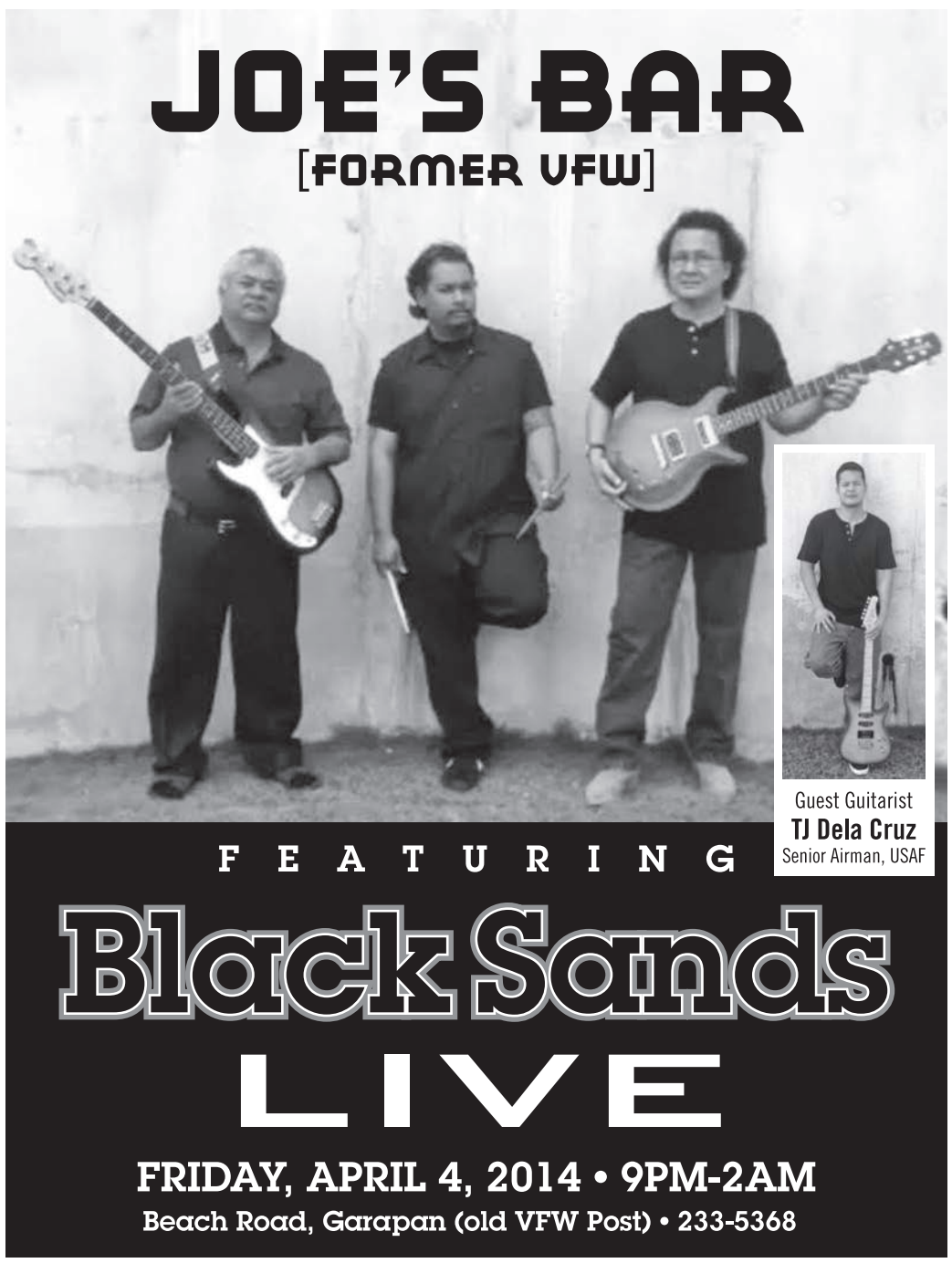

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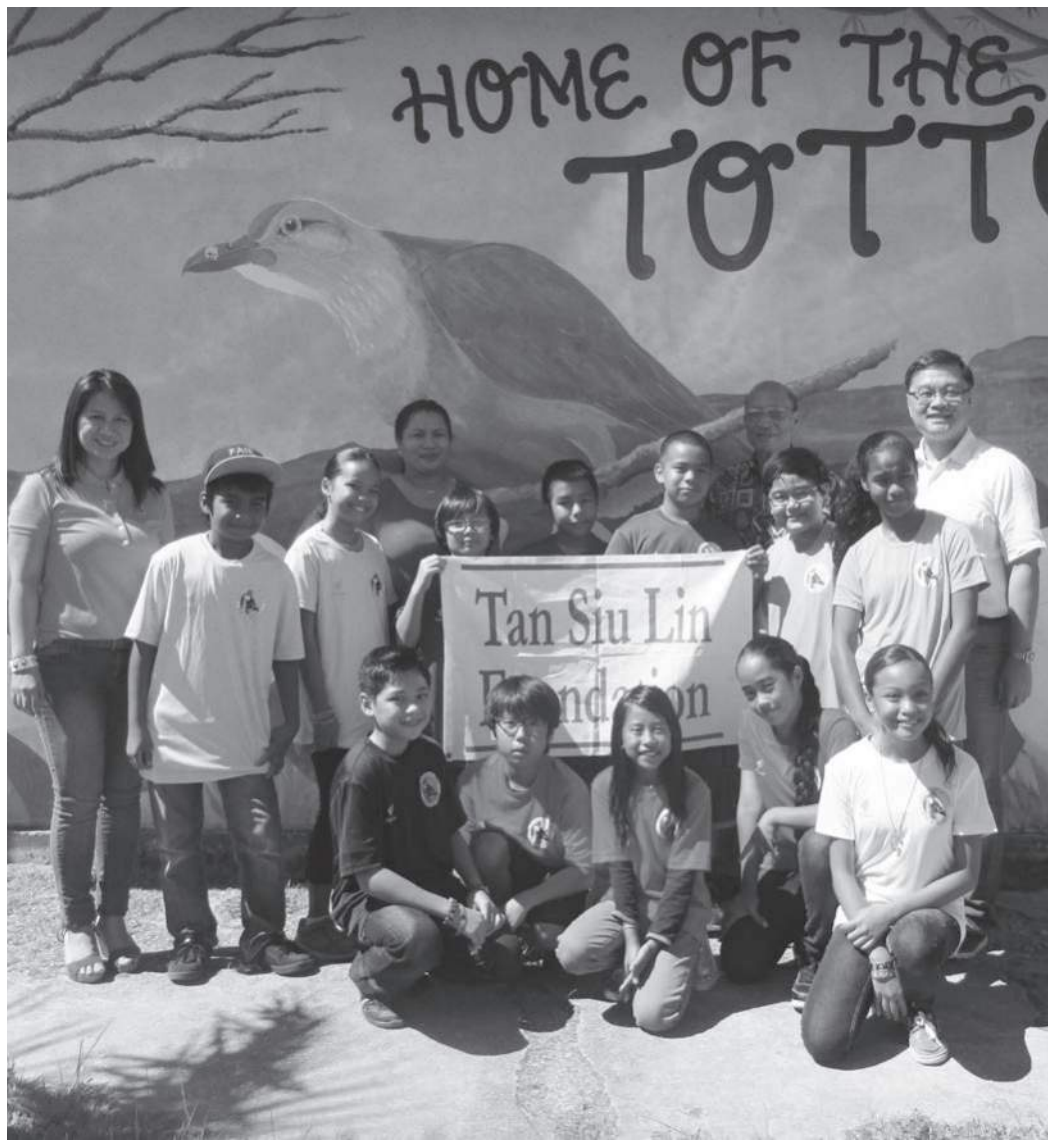
New threads for elementary school students



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dandan Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota Elementary School.

Tanapag Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

William S. Reyes Elementary School.

Students in 11 public elementary school were thrilled to each receive brand new dri-fit shirts last month. Over 5,000 shirts were distributed to Garapan, William S. Reyes, Tanapag, Kagman, San Antonio, Koblerville, Dandan, Oleai, GTC, San Vicente, and Rota elementary schools.

The generous donation was courtesy of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, a non-profit organization founded under Tan Holdings Corp. Jerry Tan, president and CEO of Tan Holdings, personally accompanied the distribution team and helped hand out shirts at each school on Saipan. Due to the instability of flight schedules to Rota and Tinian, the distribution of shirts for these islands were pushed back. Rota received their shirts earlier this week delivered by Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Maggie Sablan. Tinian Elementary School will receive their shirts as soon as a flight schedule can be confirmed.

Each student is set to receive one high quality, dri-fit shirt, custom printed with the logo for each respective school. These shirts, comfortable for all physical education activities, yet dressy enough for Sunday school, are the same quality shirts used for Saipan Soccer School athletes and the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association.

Elementary teachers and staff also received Polo shirts by Ralph Lauren personalized with their respective school logos as well. School representative Naomi Nishimura expressed gratitude on behalf of the Board of the Education, the Education Commissioner, and all the public elementary school principals when donations were received at William S. Reyes Elementary School.

"We are very grateful to Tan Holdings and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for the generosity and continued support of our public schools," she added.

Foundation president Jerry Tan shared: "Our family gives high regard to education, which drives our passion and commitment to influence the quality of life in education, sports, and other fields of interest through the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. We can never stop investing in our children. I hope the children will appreciate and cherish this small gesture." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman Elementary School.

Kilili says Rota and Tinian need higher food stamps

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In a meeting yesterday with the head of the national food stamp program Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) continued his push for higher benefits for Rota and Tinian. In a one-to-one discussion at his office with Food and Nutrition Services Administrator Audrey Rowe, Sablan made the case for higher benefits on the islands where food costs are higher. He urged Rowe to use data on food costs supplied by the Commonwealth government last year to raise benefits.

"I asked Ms. Rowe to make a decision on this soon," said Sablan, "this month if she can. The information is there.

"Just because we got the $32.5 million pilot program that will bring the Northern Marianas into the national Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program enacted into law in January does not mean that our work is done. We also have to do something now for the people on Rota and Tinian, who pay dearly for food. They need a higher benefit."

Sablan worked closely with Rowe, during the time he served on the House Agriculture Committee.

"We have really become partners in the effort to make sure that families in the Northern Mariana Islands have enough food," Sablan said. "And I know she understands the importance of increasing food assistance on Rota and Tinian." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Higher food stamp benefits for families on Rota and Tinian was the message from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, who met with Audrey Rowe, Administrator for the Food and Nutrition Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, yesterday. The Food and Nutrition Service has had data on cost differences for the two islands since last year; and Sablan has been encouraging the agency to move forward on any necessary analysis. He asked Rowe to make a final decision this month.

Environmental Top Model 2014 contest this weekend

The Environmental Top Model 2014 competition will kick off this Saturday evening at the Kanoa Resort's Isla Café. The event will start off at 7:30pm.

The three-hour event will feature 17 candidates from different schools. They will compete in three categories: island wear, casual wear, and trash wear.

It is open to the public for free and drinks can be ordered at the outlets in Kanoa Resort.

Event coordinator Sharmaine Casquero said that the two winners—one male and one female—would get a chance to be in a commercial featured in "Good Days" from Japan.

Other prizes are cash, certificates from sponsors, and sash, which will be presented to the candidates.

Casquero said that Image in Motion is cooperating with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for the Environmental Awareness Month.

EAM committee chair Cal Westergard said that the collaboration is an effort to teach kids to join in on the month's awareness about the environment.

"I thank Image in Motion for helping to make this possible for the month and we are looking forward to the event," he said.

The event is sponsored by IT&E, KFC/Taco Bell, ASKS Salon, Manila De Salon, Yuichiro Printing, and Kanoa Resort. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Enrollment numbers show Obamacare is here to stay

There are two things we know for sure from the last-minute surge to sign up for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act:

We are a nation of procrastinators.

And a lot of Americans really, really want health insurance.

President Barack Obama took a victory lap Tuesday after announcing the number of private health insurance enrollees had topped 7 million, including more than 1 million in the final five days alone. That matches the original estimate made last year, before the disastrous rollout of the federal exchange website.

It is an unquestionable win for Obama in the still-brutal political battle over his signature presidential achievement. It shows the demand for his reforms is significant and that, fundamentally, Obamacare is here to stay.

Just imagine how many more people would have enrolled without that botched rollout. Or without the campaign of obstruction waged by Republican politicians, many of whom declined to build exchanges for their states, refused to expand Medicaid—even though it was almost entirely paid by the federal government—for uninsured residents and actively discouraged constituents from participating in the health care expansion, even when it would save them money and improve their health.

The 7 million figure is on top of the more than 4 million who have signed up for Medicaid nationwide, and a Rand Corp. study this week estimates that at least 9.5 million previously uninsured Americans are among the enrollees. In Kentucky, for example, the uninsured rate is expected to decline by more than 40 percent, according to the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Let's hope that reality sets in soon among die-hard opponents of the law who, as Obama said Tuesday, are oddly angry about the fact that people are obtaining health insurance. These folks have repeatedly predicted the law would fail, often based on a faulty grasp of the facts.

Just last month House Speaker John Boehner said the number of people who had lost coverage as a result of the law was larger than the number who had obtained it. The Rand survey debunks that: It says fewer than 1 million have lost policies and not yet enrolled in new ones. And of course, those people are now guaranteed the ability to get new policies, sometimes at a lower cost.

The fact is that the ACA remains imperfect but is helping to improve the health and economic security of millions of American families. Yet Congressional Republicans continue pledging to repeal it without offering a hint of what they might suggest in return.

The Affordable Care Act will not be repealed or replaced. It does need improvement, but for that to happen, opponents have to drop their absurd rhetoric about it and come to the table with workable ideas designed to improve the law, not kill it.

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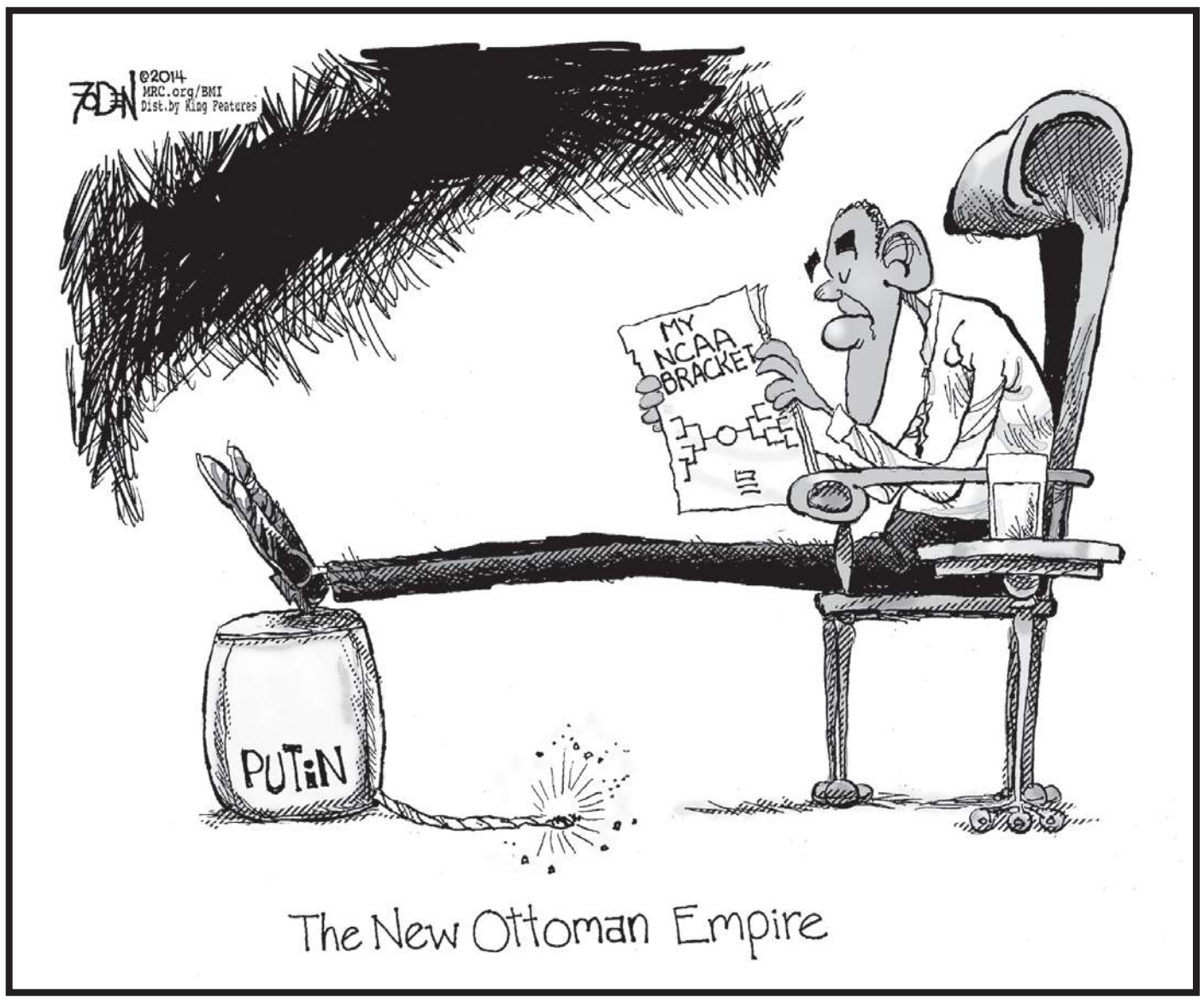


Beware the rise of Putin the Terrible

By LEON ARON
Los Angeles Times

Leon Aron is director of Russian studies at the American Enterprise Institute and the author, most recently, of Roads to the Temple: Truth, Memory, Ideas, and Ideals in the Making of the Russian Revolution, 1987-1991. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

At the moment, our preoccupation is President Vladimir Putin's next move outside Russia. Will he invade eastern Ukraine? Will he move into Moldova? But even more worrisome than these territorial issues is what Putin may have in mind for Russia itself.

The Russian president did not engineer the Ukrainian crisis, but he has exploited it to begin forging something far more dangerous than land grabs: namely, a political arrangement that could secure his rule of Russia for life. The annexation of Crimea has fueled nationalist hysteria and paranoia within Russia, and Putin has ridden that wave, reshaping his government into one that is far more repressive, ideologically driven, openly messianic and founded on a revisionist view of history that is explicitly anti-West and anti-American.

Putin heralded the birth of this new politics in an extraordinarily frank and disturbing nationally televised speech on March 18 to the Russian political elite. In it, he lamented the breakup of the Soviet Union, saying that "after the dissolution of bipolarity on the planet, we no longer have stability." Since then, he said, the West—and the United States in particular—have preferred not to be "guided by international law in their practical policies but by the rule of the gun" and have been seeking to "drive Russia into the corner."

This hostility toward the West, which Putin portrays as determined to victimize Russia, is not simply expedient and tactical. Rather, it has become Putin's raison d'etre, shaping his decisions and offering a convenient justification for greater repression. Ultimately, perhaps, he will use it to justify his assumption of a lifelong office as Father of the Nation, Protector of all Russians and Defender of the Motherland. Meanwhile, anyone who opposes him is, in Putin's words, part of the "fifth column" and a "traitor of the nation."

The perils of such a future for Russia are many and obvious. But not least among them is that it would mark a return to a personality-driven dictatorship. The many ovations and chants that greeted Putin's Kremlin appearance March 18 suggested a new cult of personality that is already enormous and might one day rival even that of Josef Stalin.

What makes this development not only alarming but potentially apocalyptic is the fact that Putin's unpredictable, revisionist and clearly aggressive regime has access to about 1,700 strategic nuclear warheads deployed on more than 400 land- and submarine-based long-range strategic missiles. And, in an ongoing $770 billion, 10-year rearmament and modernization program, Russia has heightened the threat of those weapons with an upgraded intercontinental ballistic missile capable of carrying as many as 10 warheads, each of them independently targeted and designed explicitly to evade U.S. missile defenses.

Never before has a dictator with such a cult of personality had such access to these kinds of weapons. Stalin, as brutal and antagonistic to the West as he was, did not have missiles. Even the Soviet Union under Nikita Khrushchev had only short-range missiles. (It was his move to place them close enough to reach the United States that provoked the Cuban missile crisis.) And Khrushchev, for all his erratic aggressiveness, was definitely constrained by the Supreme Soviet, which in the end removed him from office, in part because of the Cuba escapade.

Mao Zedong had a bomb but no missiles. Leonid Brezhnev had long-range missiles, but his was definitely a collective leadership regime, overseen by the largely older, conservative and generally risk-averse Politburo. In North Korea today, Kim Jong Un is certainly a totalitarian leader with a godlike cult of personality, but he has only a handful of ICBMs whose reliability, range and precision are still uncertain. Finally, China is busily developing its long-range delivery vehicles, but its leader, at least for now, is selected—and largely controlled—by the elite. Moreover, he is rigidly limited to two five-year terms.

Since Western democracies have never confronted an aggressive personality-driven autocracy armed with strategic nuclear warheads, a response must be quickly improvised. The obvious first measure should be to commit all necessary resources to building a far more formidable strategic missile defense. This effort is doubly urgent because of a concerted effort on Moscow's part to modernize its strategic missile forces. Another important move will be to increase the cost of the Putin dictatorship to Russia through sanctions and other policies.

But the most important thing of all right now is awareness. The U.S. and its allies must attune themselves to the distinct and highly malignant change in the Russian leadership, which has sharply escalated the danger Russia presents to the world.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Road trip!

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

When all else fails, it's time for a road trip. And, for that, there's nowhere better than the great American West, where Route 66 is a living link to legendary days.

Ah yes, boots and jeans, old cafes and dusty roads. Ghosts towns, long dead; and ghost towns, recently revived. That's for me.

And, apparently, it's for a lot of people, including, from what I saw, vacationing Americans, motorcycling Canadians, busloads of German tourists, and more buses of Chinese tourists.

Our road trip spanned northern Arizona. We just wanted to steer around on a whim, so we didn't research any cities, hotels, restaurants, or, well, anything else in advance. And, in fact, we wound up wandering pretty far from Route 66. As for lodging, we stayed at some big-name chain hotels and at a little independent one.

As for brands, well, it's easy to see why brands are such a big draw in hotels. A known brand conveys a level of quality that you can trust without having to launch a minor investigation every time you need a place to sleep. And hotels are, indeed, the big thing when traveling. After all, if a restaurant is a bit hinky you can just walk out of the place, but hotels aren't so easy.

So it's no surprise to me that respected brands of business hotels seem to be getting a crossover from leisure travelers, since people who have traveled for business have cultivated a trust in various names.

A popular segment of the market is midlevel hotels that don't have restaurants, but which offer a little bit of breakfast and, of course, a lot of hot coffee. In such hotels it's common to see a mixture of road warriors in suits and families in jeans.

As for Route 66, it's a part of American lore. Opened in 1926, it was the main route from Chicago to Los Angeles before the Interstate system came along in the 1950s. So its heyday spanned the Depression to the post-WWII era, which saw a lot of American migration to the west, especially to California.

Much of the kitsch in the souvenir shops highlights the post-WWII golden age. There's a lot of kitschy crossover into classic American icons such as Marilyn Monroe and Humphrey Bogart. I don't know whether or not Monroe or Bogart had any actual association or history with Route 66, but, well, they're sure associated with it now thanks to the souvenir industry.

Though most of Route 66 was blotted out by the giant slaps of Interstate concrete, some surviving segments have been maintained, while other parts have withered.

As for northern Arizona, the Grand Canyon is a big draw, which is no surprise. It's a few hours by car from Las Vegas, and Vegas is the ideal entry point for anyone flying to the states to take a road trip in the legendary West. You can fly to Vegas, rent a car, and keep yourself busy for anywhere from three days to three weeks, depending on how long your money holds out.

And then you can go back home via Vegas, after hitting the town for one last cocktail with Elvis. What better way to end a road trip?

Or maybe you'll stay: I know people who have moved from Saipan to all sorts of places in the wide-open West, including northern Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, and Montana.

Northern Arizona's scenery is desert, though some areas have pine trees, and it's mountainous territory. Many towns are 5,000 feet above sea level. We drove over one mountain pass at 8,046 feet and went walking around up there for awhile. The oxygen isn't as juicy up there as it is at sea level, so if I lived up there I'd take up smoking just to get some traction in my lungs.

There are some prosperous enclaves in northern Arizona, such as Sedona, which feels like a slice of Beverly Hills dropped into high desert.

Mines (copper and gold, notably) played a big part in the region's history. Some old structures in mining towns have been gentrified into little hotels. One such place is called the Connor Hotel (Jerome, Ariz.; population, 440), which has a dozen rooms and plenty of cozy charm.

We saw a lot of cool stuff on our trip, but Jerome was the highlight. It has some really wacky history, as befits an old mining boom town. It's a remote little place, clinging precariously to the side of a mountain, but sure pulls in the tourists, including yours truly.

Now if you'll excuse me it's time for a cocktail; Elvis is singing karaoke, and I think I see Marilyn Monroe in the corner.

Prelude to corruption is secrecy

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The recent quick succession of legislative and executive branch approval of the casino law speaks volumes of how effectively the elected officials have marginalized the participation of our people. It was a complete perversion of the democratic process.

Half-cocked leadership simply skipped citizen participation, instantly turning on the lights of impropriety or suspicion even brighter**.** It must be the venal era in these pearly isles!

It boggles the mind why the secretive and instant railroading of the measure in both chambers and signed into law, again, away from public view and in silence.

It was announced in the GOP kickoff rally a week ago. I suppose it's the crown jewel of the GOP. Secrecy on an issue of such magnitude doesn't add credence but points to the obvious lack of "due diligence."

The railroading confirms what a good friend once related to me, "The prelude to corruption is secrecy." Right off the bat public officials have arrogated for themselves the view that they are the government and not "we the people" they represent in our governmental institutions.

Boggles the mind that policymakers (governor and Legislature) skipped the hearings after various trips to Hong Kong where deals must have been recklessly struck with their chosen exclusive licensee.

Appalling their lack of perception of the essence of representative democracy effectively omitting public hearings. Isn't it in these public hearings that you clearly hear the voice of your people for or against substantive issues? What was your fear for slamming the doors against their face? Is secrecy the new norm now?

Do you recall the disastrously failed Obamacare no one ever read because Nancy Pelosi wanted to "…find out what's in it later?" Don't you see the importance of the open and deliberative process in this instance? You've royally failed the test of fiduciary responsibility!

Is it difficult understanding that the open and deliberative process of creating new laws give citizens the opportunity to weigh in on the merits or demerits of significant legislation, though the process was never perfect. But it is the hallmark of our representative government, true?

Isn't the issue sufficiently significant, therefore, the dire need to let people you represent share their views? Isn't "we the people" the government? Or have you redefined it to mean it's all about you and selected special interests? There's the adage, "The past indicates the future" and I'm sure you're now quizzing your own fate for voluntarily sealing your own political career. Welcome home!

New casino law kills investments

Obviously, it wasn't our interest that you took heart but rather the exclusive interest of your pre-selected investor and "what's in it for me!" Is it right that you sacrifice the future of our people and children to ensure securing personal interest? *Dalai `ste!*

It's obvious that your lack of depth of perception and foresight has killed the mega-investment planned for Tinian. Mega Star pulls back building the 1,000-room hotel and golf resort at the Kastiyu area. In fact, it has pulled back any further investments for the CNMI, floored in disbelief by deceit from local leadership on recently approved casino policy. It amounts to policy instability! The evil geniuses who designed and masterminded such investment destruction must be stunned by its lack of vision.

The fact that policymakers from both sides of Capital Hill have seen fit to short-circuit the normal review process is a tale of their fear of transparency. So it was given the royal exclusion of people they represent with the "we few evil geniuses" disposing of the measure. May I reiterate: The prelude to corruption is secrecy. Your action exacted our long held suspicion!

Crown jewel of hypocrisy

The House impeached former governor Benigno Fitial for lack of transparency in the power generation deal. Personally, Fitial would never be nailed for allegations of impropriety for everything was on the table. He may, however, be nailed for obstruction of justice, not corruption.

It gets hairy as relevant and focused questions are asked in the deposition process. The accusers must clearly establish that, in fact, corrupt acts were committed. It boggles the mind how corruption could be had when the discussion of the deal was on the table with CUC, AG, and Saipan Development LLL attorneys and technical experts present.

Or was the use of the term a wild assertion, hoping it lands somewhere to set up a case for political gain at all cost? So the guys and gals were reelected comfortably for preaching transparency. Wonderful!

Perhaps Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero could explain why the casino bill suffered miserably under the very standard of transparency he and cabal founded a year ago? Obviously, you people insisted on transparency against Fitial while violating the same standard when it came to your casino toy. It goes to show your spinelessness imposing the same against yourselves. I didn't know you folks are superbly agile in turning transparency into hypocrisy!

Ignorance on the march

Legislators have confirmed deficits in academic and professional competency and have given us casino as the holy grail of salvation to a bankrupt local government.

Do these guys know what "soft" and "hard" money entails? Is this aspect in the casino law or amendments to incorporate it? Or was it left on the wayside in favor of breadcrumbs like license fees? Perception and vision must be the largest deficit upstairs!

The issue definitely merits placing it on the ballot this November. Let's all sign the petition being circulated so we return this privilege for final disposition by the POWER of the people. It's the thing to do so let's join hands and do it right!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Holding out for a better deal

The CNMI's problem is not a lack of medical referrals, a lack of CUC power plant upgrades, or a lack of DPS officers. Those are only symptoms. Everyone knows the real problem is a lack of money.

The usual whiners complain about the lack of money for medical referrals or PSS or DPS in the same breath as they complain about the proposed casino. Do they have some other way to bring us $15 million in immediate cash? Do you have any other guaranteed, risk-free, enforcement-free method to have $15 million arrive in the government account for all the things our islands badly need? Or do they think there is some magical way to hire more doctors for CHC, more police officers for DPS, and more engineers for CUC, without needing to pay them anything?

If you oppose the casino, be prepared to tell the mother whose child needs a medical referral that she can't have it, even though it was offered, because you want us to hold out for a better deal. Where's that better deal? More pie-in-the-sky stories about a bridge to Tinian or pharmaceuticals?

Any of those "better" proposals require tremendous expenditure up front, of money the CNMI definitely doesn't have, in hopes of some kind of a return many years down the road. That's good for a government looking for a way to spend its extra cash. It's senseless for our government, which is desperately devoid of cash.

So complain all you want. Maybe you don't like that the investor is Chinese. Or maybe you don't like Ralph Demapan. Or maybe you don't fancy that gambling will be happening in a tourist-friendly casino, instead of in dingy village poker parlors. But $15 million immediately in the government coffers, followed by $30 million per year, is something we badly need—for our health, for our safety, for our infrastructure, and for our future.

Diego C. Blanco
As Lito, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

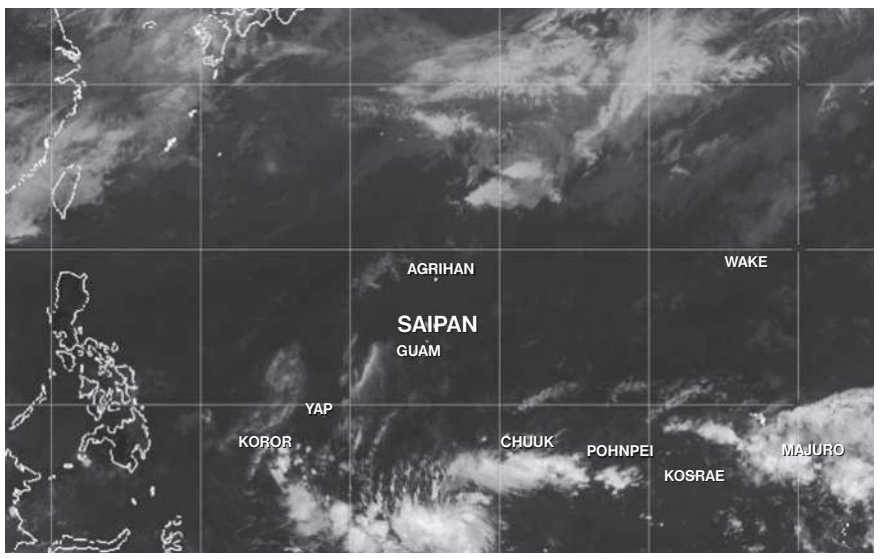
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼80
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼81
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲82	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲82	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲70	▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲69	▼44
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼67
Honolulu	Sunny	▲83	▼71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼53
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼51
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼71
New York	Showers	▲44	▼43
Osaka	Showers	▲52	▼39
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼55
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼41
Rome	Showers	▲65	▼49
Salem	Showers	▲55	▼44
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼49
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼37
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼44
Washington, DC	Showers	▲64	▼51

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression 05W is centered 500 miles southwest of Chuuk near 2N147E moving west-southwest at 5 mph with maximum sustained winds of 30 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring well south of Guam between the equator and 3N from 142E to 149E. For additional information, see warnings issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A near-equatorial trough undulates east-southeastward from 3N135E through Tropical Depression 05W to end south of Pohnpei at EQ156E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are also present southeast of Koror within 100 miles of a line from 6N136E to 1N141E and also south of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 80 miles of a line from 6N148E to 5N158E. A nearly stationary front curves westward from 25N167E to 22N158E to beyond 25N at 146E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found over Minami Tori Shima or along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Kwajalein and Majuro or east of a line from 9N161E to 3N175E to EQ176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:01 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:51 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
11:00 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:28 AM	10:35 PM
Saturday	10:17 AM	11:25 PM
Sunday	11:07 AM	
Monday	11:56 AM	12:13 AM
Tuesday	12:45 PM	12:58 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

How Congress crippled an island paradise

By KELLAN HOWELL
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The minimum wage hike that Congress imposed on two U.S. territories in 2007 has harmed their economies, according to a government audit released this week that shows more money for workers is more than canceled out by inflation and job losses.

The economic fallout has been so severe that the governors of both islands are urging lawmakers in Washington, who are considering a nationwide minimum wage hike, to forgo further increases in their territories.

Congress acted seven years ago in the wake of the Jack Abramoff lobbying scandal, which cast an unfavorable light on working conditions in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Under political pressure, Democrats also included American Samoa in the wage hike, which was designed to gradually raise the territories' rates until they reached parity with the states.

Three years later, with both territories' economies flailing, Congress halted the hikes for American Samoa and delayed them for the Northern Mariana Islands.

According to a Government Accountability Office report this week, the economic situation remains bleak for Samoans and is only slightly better for the Mariana Islands.

CHARLES DHARAPAK
Former lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

Mr. Abramoff, who lobbied against increasing the minimum wage in the Northern Marianas, told The Washington Times on Tuesday that the GAO audit bears out his predictions.

"Our main argument was that, if they did this to the CNMI, the economy would tank. This is exactly what happened. We successfully held them off for 10 years, but when my career ended, and the Democrats assumed control of Congress, they socked it to the CNMI and the results are as disastrous as we predicted," he said.

Senate Democrats are preparing to debate a broader national minimum wage increase from $7.25 an hour to $10.10, despite a Congressional Budget Office report that said such a hike could cost 500,000 jobs by 2017.

A key Republican lawmaker said the GAO report should be a wake-up call.

"This GAO report should be required reading for the Obama administration," said Rep. John Fleming, a Louisiana Republican who chairs an influential subcommittee on the House Natural Resources Committee. "It describes businesses that cannot absorb the costs of another minimum wage increase, and workers who fear that another increase will lead to higher prices and lost jobs."

In 2007, Congress enacted legislation to increase the minimum wages incrementally in American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands until they matched the federal minimum wage, now $7.27 per hour.

According to the GAO, the auditing arm of Congress, both territories experienced significant economic downturns from 2007 to 2009, including a complete exodus of the garment industry in the Northern Mariana Islands where the minimum wage increased five times since 2007. The current minimum wage there is $5.55 per hour.

From 2006 to 2012, the gross domestic product in the Northern Mariana Islands plummeted by 36 percent and the employment rate fell by 45 percent. Average earnings increased by 29 percent, but local prices rose by 31 percent. The wage increases have left the islands' economies dependent on tourism from Russia and China.

Economic conditions are even worse in American Samoa.

Since 2007, the minimum wage in American Samoa has increased three times across 18 individual work sectors, ranging from $4.18 to $5.59 per hour. The GAO reported that average earnings in American Samoa rose by 27 percent, but local prices increased by 34 percent. The employment rate in American Samoa declined by 11 percent from 2007 to 2012, and average inflation-adjusted earnings fell by 5 percent. In the tuna canning industry alone, the employment rate fell by 58 percent from 2007 to 2013.

The wage increases prompted the closure of the Chicken of the Sea tuna cannery in American Samoa, the only cannery on the island competing with StarKist. The tuna canning industry is the largest source of private-sector employment on the island.

Both territories are scheduled for more wage increases. A 50-cent rise is scheduled for Sept. 30 in the Northern Mariana Islands, and further wage hikes are set for Sept. 30, 2015, in American Samoa. Additional increases are scheduled every three years.

Governors in the island territories are protesting further wage increases. The governor of the Northern Mariana Islands has said he supports postponement of the minimum wage increase. In American Samoa, the governor has said he would "pursue changes in U.S. Law to allow American Samoa to take control of its minimum wage."

Mr. Abramoff, who served 43 months in prison for his conviction in a corruption and ethics case, said he fears that continued wage increases as scheduled would further damage the economies of both islands.

"[Congress] should roll back the increase they put in place. The discussion should not be about increasing further, but taking away this horrible policy," he said. "It is astounding that they would even consider continuing to raise this rate."

The GAO report raises concerns about the economic effects of minimum wage increases in the United States.

Some research indicates that a wage hike in the U.S. would have similar effects to those in the island territories.

According to a study conducted by the American Action Forum, a $1-per-hour wage increase would lead to an unemployment rate increase of 1.48 percent and a 0.18 percent decrease in net job growth. The study found that high minimum wages in 19 states could lead to a surge in unemployment by 747,700 workers and a reduction of 83,300 jobs.

"Raising the minimum wage is a bad idea because it harms job growth and it hurts the ability to hire workers, and that impact will differ depending on the local work markets," said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, president of the American Action Forum. "What we will see most likely is a big impact on retail trade and people working behind commerce and in restaurants. Places where low-skilled workers who dominate the minimum wage debate tend to be hired."

President Obama has called on Congress to raise the federal minimum wage to $9 an hour by the end of 2015. The administration hopes the wage increase will address high levels of income inequality. The White House estimates that the wage increase would boost earnings for 15 million low-income workers.

In his State of the Union address, Mr. Obama noted wage inequality by saying, "Even with the tax relief we've put in place, a family with two kids that earns the minimum wage still lives below the poverty line. That's wrong."

The Congressional Budget Office reported that raising the hourly minimum wage to $9 would cost 100,000 jobs and an increase to $10.10 would cost 500,000 jobs.

I would like to extend a heartfelt

"Si Yu'us Maase,
Ghilisou,
and Thank You"

to all our families, friends and supporters
for the memorable and successful
fundraising event on March 28, 2014.

Your support is and will continue to be the source of our strength in the run for a Senate seat in this year's general election.

As always, I look forward to working and talking to all of you on how we can transform our Commonwealth into a better community for ourselves and our children.

Once again, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Ghilisou

ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
FOR SENATE

Paid for by Arnold I. Palacios for Senate Committee,
Dolores Moore, Treasurer

DPS chief: Focus on war on drugs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In order to keep the CNMI safe for residents, businesses, and tourists, law enforcement efforts should focus on the drug problem, particularly methamphetamine or "ice," according to Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero.

» Deleon Guerrero advocates for creation of drug court, establishment of rehab center

Speaking at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall yesterday, Deleon Guerrero also advocated for the creation of a drug court in the CNMI and the need to establish a drug rehabilitation center.

Just about every other crime that is committed in the Commonwealth is one way or another linked to illegal drugs, he said. "We have a serious drug problem in the CNMI."

Deleon Guerrero believes that in order for the CNMI to be able bring back public safety to the way it was 30 to 40 years ago, the focus should be on eradicating the problem of illegal drugs or "ice."

DPS, he said, is mindful that it cannot do the job alone in the war against "ice" so they have been reaching out to their federal partners.

Law enforcement, he said, has to be very active in terms of going after drug dealers. At the same time, the war against drugs should be balanced with taking care of drug users, he said, which means the CNMI must put up a drug rehabilitation center.

At present, he said, the CNMI has no capacity to build the rehabilitation center but he is hoping that, with the administration's leadership, the program will eventually be realized.

He also highlighted a need to have a drug court in the Commonwealth. Over the last few years, components of the justice system have been talking about the creation of a drug court but that hasn't materialized.

"The reason why I'm advocating for the creation of a drug court is because it can help mitigate a lot of things that happen when it comes to the rehabilitation process," he said.

The idea of a drug court has had some encouraging responses from federal partners and it is something they are currently considering, he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he is hoping that with the focus on the war on drugs, the CNMI would no longer be profitable for drug dealers to continue to come in and market "ice."

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Bird Island Beach and Ladder Beach on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

USCIS announces Citizenship, Integration Grant opportunity

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is now accepting applications for the fiscal year 2014 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, which will provide up to $10 million in funding for citizenship preparation programs in communities across the country. The Citizenship and Integration Grant Program is a competitive grant opportunity for public or non-profit organizations, which promotes immigrant civic integration and prepares permanent residents for citizenship. Applications are due by May 16.

» Grants will support citizenship preparation services for permanent residents

Through the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, USCIS seeks to expand the availability of high-quality citizenship preparation services by providing grants to organizations that offer both citizenship instruction and naturalization application services to permanent residents. USCIS expects to announce up to 40 grant recipients in September.

Since 2009, USCIS has awarded approximately $33 million through 182 grants to immigrant-serving organizations that have provided citizenship preparation services to more than 78,000 permanent residents in 33 states and the District of Columbia.

To apply for this funding opportunity, visit www.grants.gov. USCIS encourages applicants to visit www.grants.gov as early as possible to obtain the registration information needed to complete the application process.

For additional information on the FY 2014 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, visit www.uscis.gov/grants or contact the USCIS Office of Citizenship by email at citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov.

For more information about USCIS and its programs, visit www.uscis.gov. Follow us on Facebook (/uscis), Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis) and the USCIS blog *The Beacon*. ***(USCIS)***

UOG lecture series features chemist

University of Guam president Dr. Robert A. Underwood presents the first speaker in the Presidential Lecture Series of 2014, Dr. Hendrik Luesch, the Debbie and Sylvia DeSantis Chair in Natural Products Drug Discovery and Development, Center for Natural Products, Drug Discovery and Developmen, Department of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Florida.

Luesch

Luesch will speak on Guam's marine life and resources as a starting point for drug discovery and development. His research has identified promising compounds for combating cancer, as well as Alzheimer's disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The presentation will be held at 5:30pm on Thursday, April 10, at the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Lecture Hall at the University of Guam.

About Dr. Luesch

Hendrik Luesch received his *Diplom* in Chemistry at the University of Siegen (Germany) in 1997. He studied marine natural products chemistry at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa where he obtained his Ph.D. in Chemistry in 2002 under the guidance of Prof. Richard E. Moore.

In 2005, he joined the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Florida. In 2011, he was awarded the three-year University of Florida Research Foundation Professorship and, in 2012, the endowed Frank A. Duckworth Eminent Scholar Chair in Drug Research and Development.

As of 2013, he is the endowed Debbie and Sylvia DeSantis Chair in Natural Products Drug Discovery and Development where he leads a multidisciplinary marine natural products drug discovery and development program. In 2013, he founded and now directs the Center for Natural Products, Drug Discovery and Development (CNPD3) at the University of Florida.

For more information and the full presentation abstract, visit www.uog.edu or contact Louise Toves at 735-2995 or email lmtoves@uguam.uog.edu. ***(UOG)***

Your Child at 1 Year

Child's Name | Child's Age | Today's Date

How your child plays, learns, speaks, and acts offers important clues about your child's development. Developmental milestones are things most children can do by a certain age.

Check the milestones your child has reached by his or her 1st birthday. Take this with you and talk with your child's doctor at every visit about the milestones your child has reached and what to expect next.

What Most Babies Do at this Age:

Social/Emotional
- ❑ Is shy or nervous with strangers
- ❑ Cries when mom or dad leaves
- ❑ Has favorite things and people
- ❑ Shows fear in some situations
- ❑ Hands you a book when he wants to hear a story
- ❑ Repeats sounds or actions to get attention
- ❑ Puts out arm or leg to help with dressing
- ❑ Plays games such as "peek-a-boo" and "pat-a-cake"

Language/Communication
- ❑ Responds to simple spoken requests
- ❑ Uses simple gestures, like shaking head "no" or waving "bye-bye"
- ❑ Makes sounds with changes in tone (sounds more like speech)
- ❑ Says "mama" and "dada" and exclamations like "uh-oh!"
- ❑ Tries to say words you say

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)
- ❑ Explores things in different ways, like shaking, banging, throwing
- ❑ Finds hidden things easily
- ❑ Looks at the right picture or thing when it's named
- ❑ Copies gestures
- ❑ Starts to use things correctly; for example, drinks from a cup, brushes hair
- ❑ Bangs two things together
- ❑ Puts things in a container, takes things out of a container
- ❑ Lets things go without help
- ❑ Pokes with index (pointer) finger
- ❑ Follows simple directions like "pick up the toy"

Act Early by Talking to Your Child's Doctor if Your Child:

- ❑ Doesn't crawl
- ❑ Can't stand when supported
- ❑ Doesn't search for things that she sees you hide.
- ❑ Doesn't say single words like "mama" or "dada"
- ❑ Doesn't learn gestures like waving or shaking head
- ❑ Doesn't point to things
- ❑ Loses skills he once had

Tell your child's doctor or nurse if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay for this age, and talk with someone in your community who is familiar with services for young children in your area, such as your state's public early intervention program. For more information, go to **www.cdc.gov/concerned** or call **1-800-CDC-INFO.**

Adapted from CARING FOR YOUR BABY AND YOUNG CHILD: BIRTH TO AGE 5, Fifth Edition, edited by Steven Shelov and Tanya Remer Altmann © 1991, 1993, 1998, 2004, 2009 by the American Academy of Pediatrics and BRIGHT FUTURES: GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH SUPERVISION OF INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS, Third Edition, edited by Joseph Hagan, Jr., Judith S. Shaw, and Paula M. Duncan, 2008, Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics. This milestone checklist is not a substitute for a standardized, validated developmental screening tool.

HOW IS YOUR BABY GROWING?

If you have any concerns about your child's development, contact the Children's Developmental Assistance Center (CDAC) at 664-4830

Printing funded by the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant.

www.cdc.gov/actearly | 1-800-CDC-INFO

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS MONTH PRESENTS:

A free film show about fishing

First Friday Films presents the new film *Drawing the Line* today, April 4, at 6:30pm at American Memorial Park discussing a different perspective on who is affected by marine protected areas: the fishermen.

Drawing the Line is a revealing tale about Australia's oceans and the men and women who depend upon them for their livelihood. Australia is currently in the process of implementing the world's largest marine reserves network. Although marine protected areas are often thought of as popular solution to marine conservation, this story illustrates the plight of the people who make their living off of the areas that the Australian government is trying to close off in the name of conservation.

First Friday Films is a partnership between American Memorial Park, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the Humanities Council with support from other organizations and individuals. This film is sponsored by Marianas Conservation. As always, our film events are free and open to the public. This event will run about 75 minutes.

The topic of this month's film will be complemented by another new film to be shown on May 2, *Shark on the Ledge* about shark fishing in Palau.

For more information about First Friday Films, email fffsaipan@gmail.com or check out www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. ***(BECQ)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OPA staff on Tinian, Rota for filings

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, and on Tinian on Thursday, April 10, 2014, to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials. Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office on April 8 from 10:30am to 4pm. Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Mayor's Office on April 10 from 10:30am to 3:30pm. All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. For any inquiries or comments, contact OPA at 322-6481 or 6482. ***(OPA)***

SVES registration for kindergarten

San Vicente Elementary School registration for school year 2014-2015 is scheduled to begin on May 27-30, 2014, for kindergarten only from 9am through 11:30am in the school's main office. Child must be 5 years on or before Sept. 30, 2009, as per BOE policy. For more information, call 664-3981. ***(PR)***

Free business workshop on customer service

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will host a free business workshop on Saipan called "Customer Service for Small Businesses" on April 17, 2014, at the second floor of the Family Building in Garapan, from 10am to 12pm. It will be presented by Small Business Development Center director Perry Inos Jr. Call 664-3018 for pre-registration. Deadline for pre-registration is 12pm, one business day before the workshop. Walk-ins are allowed and granted on space availability. Online registration is also available at pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com. ***(PR)***

GOOD NEWS!

U-LUCK POKER

is happy to announce that we are having a raffle to acknowledge all our valued customers.
We want to express our deepest gratitude by having the following raffles.

GRAND PRIZE!

2014 TOYOTA YARIS WORTH $18,800

1st Prize — ROUND TRIP TICKET FROM SAIPAN TO NEW YORK, USA (2 WINNERS) WORTH $1500/EA.

2nd Prize — ROUND TRIP TICKET FROM SAIPAN TO SHANGHAI, CHINA (2 WINNERS) WORTH $1000.00/EA.

3rd Prize — ONE WEEK ACCOMODATION AT SUNSHINE GARDEN (2 WINNERS) WORTH $623.00/EA.

4th Prize — SCOOTER (2 WINNERS) WORTH $500.00/EA.

5th Prize — GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR SUNSHINE RESTAURANT (2 WINNERS) WORTH $200.00/EA.

Please see the table chart below on how to get your raffle ticket

BET	STRAIGHT FLUSH	5 OF A KIND	ROYAL FLUSH
10 bet - 18 bet ($0.05)	2 ticket	4 ticket	8 ticket
5 bet ($0.25)	2 ticket	5 ticket	25 ticket
6 bet - 10 bet ($0.25)	5 ticket	10 ticket	50 ticket
11 bet - 20 bet ($0.25)	10 ticket	20 ticket	100 ticket
21 bet - 40 bet ($1.00)	20 ticket	40 ticket	200 ticket

"ALL PRIZES CAN'T BE EXCHANGE INTO CASH"

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
January 13, 2014

To All Our Valued Customers:

We would like to extend our utmost gratitude to all our valued customers by giving good prizes on our raffle promo, but unfortunately, the Department of Finance informed us that the regulations specifically limits the prizes to merchandise valuing less than $35,000.00 and prohibits cash prizes.

We would like to express our deepest apology regarding the changes we've had to make in order for our raffle promo to go on.

We hope for your understanding and continued support.

U-LUCK POKER MANAGEMENT

Tel: 233-0108 • Garapan next to Kimchi Cabana Karaoke
9 days left before raffle day! Raffle date: April 12, 2014

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Roberto's opens at Gold Beach Hotel

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Roberto's Restaurant and Café opened last March 11 at the ground floor of Gold Beach Hotel Saipan.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Roberto's manager Dan Pacala, rightmost, poses with the rest of the newly opened restaurant's staff.

A new restaurant that offers international cuisine with a Filipino touch has opened at the Gold Beach Hotel Saipan.

Roberto's Restaurant and Café started operations on March 11 at the ground floor of the Beach Road landmark and, according to manager Dan Pacala, it has been enjoying brisk business, especially on Sundays when they offer a lunch buffet.

Pacala said their entry to the restaurant business comes after years of operating several gas stations on Saipan. He said they invested over $20,000 on the new business.

He said his family has always had a passion for food; they've tried out almost every restaurant and food outlet on the island.

Leah Castillon, Pacala's sister, said the family also decided to open Roberto's because they feel that the economy is getting better and people have more disposable income to eat out.

Aside from Filipinos on island, Roberto's has also been attracting a good number of local residents, Americans, as well as Japanese, Chinese, and Korean tourists.

The newly opened restaurant has so far been getting high marks for its flying tilapia, pinakbet bagnet, beef stroganoff, seafood platter, Roberto's pizza, and its signature fried rice.

As for the immensely popular Sunday buffet, Castillon said Roberto's offers a spread of four main entrees, steamed and fried rice, soup, salad, as well as free iced tea.

Pacala said their Sunday lunch buffet is comparable to those offered by Saipan's big hotels but without customers having to break the bank as it only cost an affordable $9.79.

Roberto's, which is named after the family patriarch, comfortably sits 40 diners and is open Monday-Sunday from 10am to 2pm and 6pm to 10pm.

Pacala said they plan to open 24 hours a day as a service to guests of Gold Beach Saipan. Other future plans for Roberto's include offering sushi in the menu, bento-style breakfast, and a delivery service.

For reservations, call Roberto's at 235-2627. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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*Charges may vary depending on the complexity

Man gets 6-month sentence for tresspass

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has imposed the maximum sentence of six months in prison on Vincent K. Antonius, a 21-year-old man who broke into one of the rooms of Century Hotel in Garapan and was injured after he jumped from the second floor to the rooftop of a storage room.

At a hearing on Wednesday, Antonius pleaded guilty to two counts of disturbing the peace as part of a plea deal.

Camacho sentenced Antonius to six months in prison for each count, to be served day for day without the possibility of parole.

The sentences for the two counts shall run concurrently. This means that Antonius' total actual prison term is six months. He was given credit for time served.

The remaining charges were dismissed as part of the plea deal that the defendant signed with the government.

Assistant attorney general Chemere McField represented the government. Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer served as counsel for the defendant.

According to the plea deal, Antonius committed criminal trespass at the Century Hotel on July 12, 2013, when he entered one of the hotel's rooms, where two guests were sleeping. His actions disturbed the peace of the two guests.

According to police, Antonius entered the hotel room through the balcony's sliding door and was attempting to enter another room when a guest saw him and shouted.

Antonius fled by jumping from the room's balcony into the roof of the adjacent storage room, landing on his back. He was injured and could not get up.

When a police officer responded to the scene, Antonius was still on top of the storage room. Medics transported him to the hospital, but was later released.

At the Department of Corrections where he was subsequently detained, the defendant told a police officer that he was drunk and does not remember what happened. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Kagman health center marks 1st anniversary

The Kagman Community Health Center will be holding its first anniversary today, April 4, 2014, starting at 10am. A short tour of the facility will be done after brief remarks from the community partners. The community is welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Kagman Community Health Center is a primary care facility that serves all patients regardless of inability to pay. Everyone is welcome to be seen, even those that reside outside the Kagman area.

To make an appointment or to get information, call 256-KCHC (5242). Additional information is available by going the KCHC website at www.kagmanchc.org. ***(PR)***

BECQ Brigade to join islandwide cleanup

In celebration of the 31st Environmental Awareness Month, the regularly scheduled Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Cleanup Brigade will coincide with this year's BECQ EAM Islandwide Cleanup scheduled for Friday, April 25, 2014, from 2pm to 4:30pm. For more information on how to participate in this event, contact EAM Islandqide Cleanup event coordinator Ben Somol at 664-8500.

Last month's Tank Beach Cleanup was successful with 27 volunteers participating. About 360 lbs of marine debris was removed from the beach and properly disposed of. During last year's Islandwide Cleanup, over 4,400 lbs of trash were picked up from roadsides and beaches and properly disposed.

The BECQ is looking forward to a repeat success this year, so join BECQ's Islandwide Cleanup and "Pick It Up!"

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

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$2.5M in electronic gaming fee now part of budget

»House speaker wants budget bill ready by early July

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos' proposed $134 million budget includes $2.5 million in projected revenue from electronic gaming fees, but both the electronic gaming law and the recently signed Saipan casino law seek to restore the 25 percent cut in retirees' pension. The administration expects to collect a total of $170 million in fiscal year 2015 but only $134 million of which is available for government appropriation.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, in her 2015 general revenue estimates report dated March 31, said the 2015 estimates also account for the electronic gaming revenue and the transfers out to the purposes specified by law.

The electronic gaming law sets a $2,500 fee per machine.

With a projected $2.5 million in revenues from electronic gaming, the administration expects at least 1,000 machines.

License fee, application fee, and other fees associated with the exclusive Saipan casino license are already specifically set aside for a host of services and programs, including the restoration of the 25 percent pension cut and payment of land claims. The government also expects to generate revenue related to the legalization of video lottery.

Of the $170 million projected budgetary resources for 2015, $65 million or 38 percent is from business gross revenue tax, while $37.55 million or 22 percent is from income taxes.

Some $28 million or 16 percent is from excise taxes, and $22.05 million or 13 percent is projected to come from other taxes. The government expects to get $11.335 million from licenses and fees, $2.1 million from charges for services, and $4.02 million from other revenue.

After adjusting for debt service appropriations, earmarked funds and other local obligations, the net resources available for general appropriation in fiscal year 2015 is $134 million, the highest in five years. Yet that is still far below the levels when the CNMI still had a garment industry and tourism to fuel the economy.

From a $120 million budget in 1990, the CNMI government's budget peaked at $247 million in 1997. After that, the annual budget started to decline not only because of the Asian economic crisis but later on the pullout of garment factories and Japan Airlines from the CNMI.

Starting in 2006, the CNMI government budget was already falling below the $200-million mark. By 2010, the government budget was $137 million, which is closer to the governor's 2015 proposed budget of $134 million.

Between 2011 and 2014, the government's budget was from $102 million to $122 million.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), meanwhile, said yesterday that he expects the Ways and Means Committee to have a 2015 budget bill ready for full House action by early July.

"The Planning and Budgeting Act sets timelines and I hope we can follow that this time. The early July target is optimistic but we must be able to meet that," he said.

Ways and Means Committee chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said committee members will be given ample time to review the governor's proposed budget before meeting and scheduling meetings with certain agencies and departments about their proposed spending plan.

Pot legalization, 50-cent cigarette tax hike on Senate panel's agenda

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senators are now tinkering with the idea of legalizing marijuana in the CNMI for medicinal and recreational use similar to Colorado, which forecasts nearly $1 billion in sales next fiscal year, while at the same time reducing to only 50 cents every three years a House proposal to immediately increase cigarette tax by $2 a pack.

These were among the topics in yesterday afternoon's meeting of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

Senators started touching on marijuana legalization when they were discussing Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero's (Cov-Saipan) bill decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana and raising the monetary fines instead.

This also comes a few years after the Senate kept on rejecting or shelving bills from the House seeking to legalize marijuana for medicinal or recreational use, or both.

Taimanao confirmed last night that both the marijuana and cigarette tax proposals are under consideration.

She said she respects committee members' ideas. This also comes at a time when some members of the Guam Legislature are pushing marijuana legalization.

Taimanao said the Senate may now be more open to the idea of legalizing marijuana use in the CNMI, citing the Senate's recent decision to pass for the first time a House bill legalizing casino on Saipan after years of rejecting similar proposals. Taimanao was one of four senators who voted "no" to the Saipan casino bill that became law on March 21.

Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan), a member of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, separately said the Senate legal counsel has been tasked to help research Colorado State's marijuana legalization law.

"Yes, the committee is tinkering with the idea, whether it's a good idea to legalize it or not. But nothing is final. Nothing is decided," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*. He added that the discussion at the Senate committee meeting had nothing to do with Ambrose Bennett.

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper recently announced that he expects that the combined sales from both legal medical and recreational marijuana in the state will reach nearly $1 billion in the next fiscal year—bout $600 million of that is projected to come from just recreational sales, based on national media reports. Colorado stands to collect at least $134 million in marijuana taxes and fees.

Taimanao said the committee will meet again to further discuss the idea of marijuana legalization, as they formulate a recommendation and proposed amendment to a House bill decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana.

Cigarette tax

Acting Senate president Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) and Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), also members of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, said the panel agreed to reduce the $2 cigarette tax increase that the House proposes.

Initially, the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee recommended the $2 cigarette tax hike to be reduced to only $1, for $3 per pack for two years. Thereafter, the tax would be increased by another $1, for a total of $4 per pack.

But at yesterday's meeting, the committee agreed to cap the cigarette tax increase at 50 cents for the first three years, and then another 50 cents after that.

Manglona said it is important that any tax increase is accompanied by strong enforcement of cigarette tax laws.

"If there's proper tax law enforcement, then the government collects more. You add that to a 50 cents tax increase," he said.

Yumul has reservation about a cigarette tax increase, saying the bill does not necessarily put more funds into health programs and smoking cessation programs.

If a pack of cigarettes now costs $3.75, for example, this could go up to $5.75 a pack once House Bill 18-118 becomes law. But the Senate committee said the House proposal is too steep.

April 2014 is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month
ONE TEXT OR CALL COULD
WRECK
IT ALL
Get the FACTS
TEXTING TAKES YOUR EYES OFF THE ROAD FOR 4.6 SECONDS
At 55 MPH, that's like driving an entire football field blindfolded.
THERE ARE THREE MAIN TYPES OF DISTRACTION
Manual: taking your hands off the wheel
Visual: taking your eyes off the road
Cognitive: taking your mind off driving
VISUAL
MANUAL
COGNITIVE
CELL PHONE USE WAS REPORTED IN 18% DISTRACTION-RELATED FATALITIES IN AMERICA
DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SAFETY
NHTSA
www.nhtsa.gov
CNMI Department of Public Safety. For more information call:
SAIPAN 664-9001/2 • TINIAN 433-9222 • ROTA 532-9433
The Department of Public Safety is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US calls on Europe to wean itself from Russian gas

BRUSSELS (AP)—The United States on Wednesday called on Europe to wean itself from a dangerous dependency on Russian gas, saying it was time to stand together and bring an end to the Kremlin's use of energy supplies as political leverage. Left unsaid was the European Union's reluctance to follow the United States headlong into shale gas extraction, which has transformed the global energy scene and turned the U.S. from importer into a nascent exporter. Or its refusal to fully re-embrace nuclear power in the wake of the Fukushima disaster in Japan. And even if it tried to become independent, it would take Europe years to develop promising sources, such as shale deposits in Ukraine and Poland—and with no guarantees of success. Europe's reliance on Russia for a third of its energy needs has left the Kremlin in a position of power, emboldening it as it swept in to annex the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine last month, with little more than diplomatic protest and a few sanctions in return.

Lawmakers accuse GM of possible criminal cover-up

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lawmakers on Capitol Hill accused General Motors of a potentially criminal cover-up of its defective ignition switches and fumed at the lack of answers from its new CEO during a second day of hearings Wednesday into why GM waited a decade to recall cars with the deadly flaw. Members of a Senate subcommittee also said GM should tell owners of the 2.6 million cars being recalled to stop driving them until they are repaired. But CEO Mary Barra gave assurances that the cars, mainly Chevrolet Cobalts and Saturn Ions, are safe to use while owners wait for the replacement part, saying she would let her own son get behind the wheel if he took certain precautions. GM has linked the switch to 13 deaths and dozens of accidents. Others, including relatives of some victims, have a higher count of fatalities.

GOP budget slashes spending, aid to poor

WASHINGTON (AP)—A budget plan stuffed with familiar proposals to cut across a wide swath of the federal budget breezed through the House Budget Committee on Wednesday, but its sharp cuts to health care coverage for the middle class and the poor, food stamps and popular domestic programs are a nonstarter with President Barack Obama. The GOP-controlled committee approved the plan by a party-line vote after swatting away numerous Democratic attempts to ease its cuts. The plan by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., the committee chairman and the party's former vice presidential nominee, promises $5.1 trillion in cuts over the coming decade to bring the government's ledger into the black by 2024. The plan is a dead letter with the Democratic-controlled Senate and Obama, but gives Republicans a vehicle to polish their budget-cutting credentials in the run-up to fall midterm elections in which they're counting on a big turnout from GOP conservatives and the tea party.

OUR HISTORY, OUR STORIES

Are you interested in caves and their history?

A recent study was undertaken by archaeologists and local community members to assess the significance of caves to the community and identify ways in which they can be protected and preserved.

Come join us for an amazing look into the caves of Saipan. An illustrated lecture will show you what was found and just what history lies hidden in your caves. Get a sneak peak at new public service announcements that will run on radio and TV...you may recognize someone you know!

Wednesday April 9, 2014
6pm
American Memorial Park

The results of this project will be presented to the community and your opinions and feedback are needed. Please join us for a public meeting.

If you cannot attend and want to provide input, call after 5pm, Genevieve Cabrera @ 483-0194.

This projected was funded by a National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program Grant

Remember,
Mental Health
is very important to your overall health!

Here are some tips to reduce stress in your life:

1. Talk about what's causing your stress
2. Organize
3. Take one thing at a time
4. Exercise
5. Take care of yourself
6. Find time for yourself
7. Laugh
8. Resist the urge to be perfect
9. Try relaxation techniques
10. Stay present

Too much stress can be detrimental to your health. It may cause headaches, backaches, or problems sleeping. Stress can also lead to serious illnesses such as high blood pressure and heart disease. Lowering stress can improve your overall health!

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all Mental Health Council Members that a General Meeting will be held at the Community Guidance Center Conference Room on February 12, 2014 at 10 AM.

Please be advised of the following Agenda:

Mental Health Planning Council
April 9, 2014
CGC Conference Room
1pm

I. Preliminary matters
- *a. Call to order*
- *b. Roll Call*
- *c. Adoption of Agenda*
- *d. Adoption of Minutes – 2/12/14*

II. Old Business
- *a. Chair Report*
- *b. CGC/TLC Updates*
- *c. Concerns*

III. New Business
- *a. Sub-Committees*
- *i. Three committees and Ad-Hoc for letter for Block Grant application*

IV. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- *a.*
- *b.*

V. Next Meeting
- *a. TBD*

VI. Adjournment

Nation

Gunman kills 3, wounds 16 at Fort Hood Army base

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP)—A soldier opened fire Wednesday on fellow service members at the Fort Hood military base, killing three people and wounding 16 before committing suicide at the same post where more than a dozen people were slain in a 2009 attack, authorities said.

The shooter apparently walked into a building and began firing a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol that had been purchased recently. He then got into a vehicle and continued firing before entering another building and kept shooting.

He was eventually confronted by military police in a parking lot. As he came within 20 feet of an officer, the gunman put his hands up but then reached under his jacket and pulled out his gun. The officer drew her own weapon, and the suspect put his gun to his head and pulled the trigger a final time.

The gunman, who was married and served in Iraq for four months in 2011, had sought help for depression, anxiety and other problems. Before the attack, he had been undergoing an assessment to determine whether he had post-traumatic stress disorder, according to Lt. Gen. Mark A. Milley, the senior officer on the base.

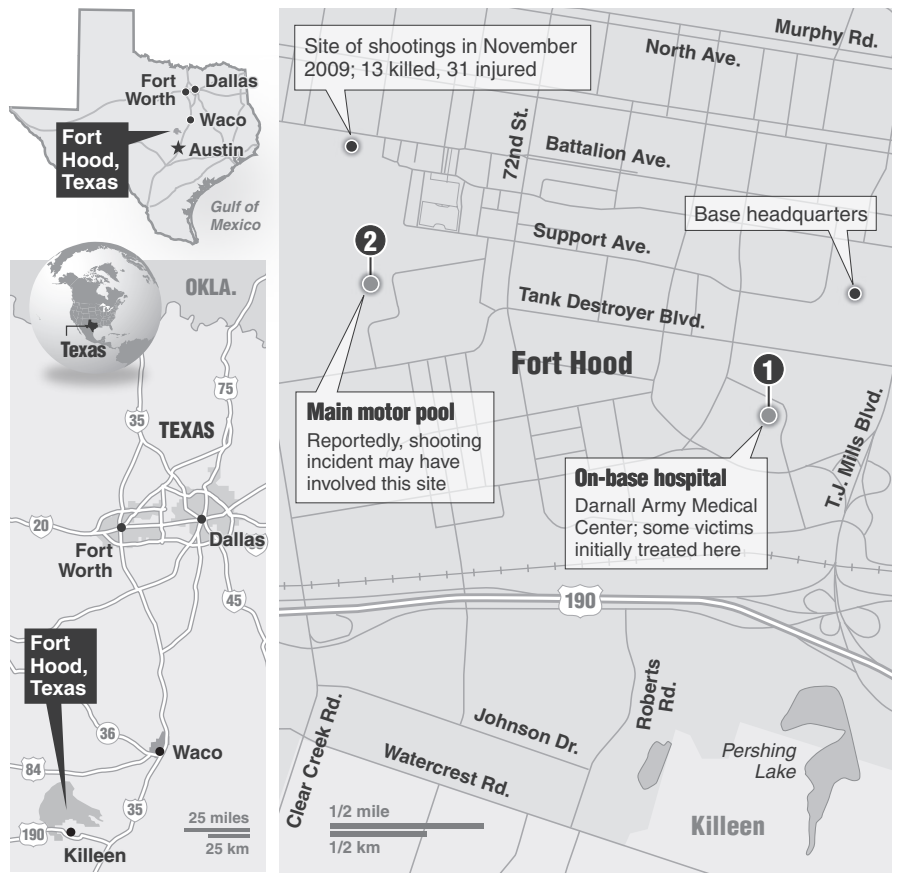
The suspect had arrived at Fort Hood in February from another base. He was taking medication, and there were reports that he had complained about suffering a traumatic brain injury, Milley said. He did not elaborate.

The gunman was not wounded in action, according to military records, Milley said.

There was no indication the attack was related to terrorism, Milley said.

Another multiple shooting at Fort Hood

Four and a half years after a mass shooting at Fort Hood claimed 13 lives and prompted a detailed review of security procedures on the large army base, another multiple shooting incident has occurred there; four are dead, 16 injured. What is being reported as of 11 p.m. ET, April 2:



Details provided by base commander, Lt. Gen. Mark Milley

1 4 p.m. CT The shooter, a soldier, enters a building that is part of the 1st Medical Brigade complex at Darnall Medical Center and opens fire with a .45 caliber pistol, then leaves that building

2 Shooter gets into vehicle and begins driving; fires from vehicle, arrives at area housing 49th Transportation Brigade, then shoots himself as military police officer approaches

The shooter

- Name not given, but Gen. Milley said shooter served in Iraq in 2011; was being psychologically evaluated
- He arrived at Fort Hood in February

Source: AP, Waco Tribune, Dallas Morning News, NBC News, Fort Hood officials

Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2014 MCT

ACROSS THE NATION

Newtown residents want gunman's house torn down

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Some Newtown residents are calling for the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooter's home to be torn down and replaced with a park or nature preserve, according to a new community survey. The Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation received more than 1,600 responses to the survey it released Monday on town residents' unmet needs in the wake of the December 2012 shootings. The foundation has been deciding how to distribute more than $11 million in donations made in response to the shootings, which left 20 first-graders and six educators dead. While most of the survey responses said money for mental health counseling and other family expenses are top priorities, a small percentage of community members mentioned funds to buy and tear down Adam Lanza's home, said Jennifer Barahona, the foundation's executive director. She said several people who live near the Lanza house said in the survey that it should be razed.

$425 million Powerball winner wants privacy

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The winner of one of the largest Powerball jackpots in history has finally come forward—but he still hasn't quite revealed his identity. B. Raymond Buxton, a Northern California man, waited more than a month to accept his prize on Tuesday at the California Lottery headquarters in Sacramento. In a photo taken after he claimed the money on Tuesday, Buxton was covering his face with an oversize check for $425 million. Perhaps the only clue to his identity was his unusual shirt, which featured a picture of the Star Wars character Yoda and read, "Luck of the Jedi I have." "He really wants to live a private life as best he can," Buxton's publicist Sam Singer told The Associated Press. "He was a solidly middle-class American, and today he is a solidly wealthy one."

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO BID
ITB14-GOV-079

Replacement of Computer Hardware and UPS Stations for CNMI Department of Labor

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, are soliciting sealed bids for the Replacement of Computer Hardware and UPS Stations for CNMI Department of Labor.

The project package will be available on or after April 9, 2014 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing **no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 19, 2014** to the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB14-GOV-079"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, April 30, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time April 30, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 30, 2014** and must be received no later than **May 7, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, May 8, 2014**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at **10:30 a.m. Saipan local time, on April 30, 2014**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable asset are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is thirty (30) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars ($100.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by thirty (30) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Jude U. Hofschneider, Acting Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS FOR CPA PROJECT NO. RFP-007-14

PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGE MAINTENANCE SERVICE
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting proposals from qualified firms to provide the CPA with Passenger Loading Bridge Maintenance at the Saipan International Airport.

PROJECT LOCATION: All work shall take place at the Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SCOPE OF SERVICES: The scope of work will consist of all necessary preventive maintenance services and on-call repair of six (6) Jetway Passenger Loading Bridges and related equipment at the Saipan International Airport.

OBTAINING RFP DOCUMENTS AND ADDENDA: The RFP document will be available for pick up at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd, Floor Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport beginning March 21, 2014. Firm must register with the Office of the Executive Director upon obtaining the RFP Package.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS AND AWARD OF CONTRACT: This solicitation has been developed in the Request for Proposals (RFP) format. Accordingly, firms should take note that multiple factors as identified in the RFP package will be considered by the Evaluation Committee to determine which proposal best meets the requirements set forth in the RFP document. The CPA reserves the right to negotiate the terms and conditions of any resulting contract. Final Contract award, if any, will be made by the Commonwealth Ports Authority Contracting Officer. The selected firm will be required to comply with all insurance and license requirements of the CPA.

A non-mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at the Saipan International Airport Departure Building Conference Room located on the second floor at 10:00 AM on Friday, April 4th, 2014 and will include a tour of the Airport Loading Bridges to acquaint prospective Proposers with site conditions. Temporary SIDA badges will be provided for the tour. **Attendance is strongly encouraged.**

Failure of a Proposer to attend the pre-proposal conference shall constitute acceptance of all pre-existing site conditions and shall constitute a waiver of any and all future claims relating to said conditions. No variation in a proposal submitted shall be permitted based on claim ignorance.
This will be the only site visit scheduled.

DEADLINE: All proposals must be received by the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location by 4:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, Friday, APRIL 25th, 2014. The receiving time in the Executive Director's Office will be the governing time for acceptability of Proposals. All other forms of Proposal submissions will not be accepted and shall be returned unopened.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects of said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

PROPOSALS VALIDITY: The Proposer shall guarantee that all contents of their proposal shall be valid for a period of 120 calendar days from the due date of proposals.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipino militants snatch 2 people in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Suspected Filipino insurgents seized a Chinese tourist and a hotel receptionist from a dive resort in eastern Malaysia, and then fled on the speed boat they arrived in, Malaysian and Philippine officials said Thursday. The kidnapping late Wednesday underscores the persistent security threats in Sabah state, a popular tourist destination and dive spot that is a short boat ride from the southern Philippines, which has long been home to a dangerous mix of Muslim militants and kidnap gangs. It could also complicate already strained relations between China and Malaysia over Kuala Lumpur's hunt for a jetliner that disappeared March 8 with 153 Chinese citizens on board.

Shark kills woman off Australia's east coast

SYDNEY (AP)—A shark killed a woman Thursday as she swam with a group of swimmers off a popular Australian east coast beach, police said. Christine Armstrong, 63, was taken as she attempted to swim the 600 meters (1,970 feet) between the wharf and beach near the village of Tathra, 340 kilometers (210 miles) south of Sydney, police said in a statement. The Tathra Wharf to Waves—a swim from the wharf to the beach and back again—is an annual event that attracts hundreds of swimmers each summer. Local council general manager Leanne Barnes said the victim was part of a group of locals who meet at the beach every morning to swim out to the wharf and back. "It's a beautiful little coastal village and this is one of those sad things that can happen," Barnes said.

Old bomb explodes in Bangkok scrap shop, killing 8

BANGKOK (AP)—Workers at a scrap shop in Thailand's capital accidentally detonated a large bomb believed to have been dropped during World War II, killing at least eight people and injuring 20 others, police said. Police bomb squad chief Kamthorn Auicharoen said construction workers found the bomb buried at a building site and sold it to the scrap shop in northern Bangkok. He said workers at the shop were using a gas-powered thermal cutter to take the bomb apart when it exploded Wednesday. Authorities initially reported seven dead, but search crews later found a child's body in the rubble, believed to be a girl about 4 years old, police Col. Virasak Phoithong said Thursday.

Malaysian PM visits Australian base for jet search

PERTH, Australia (AP)—Malaysia's prime minister said Thursday the search for the missing jetliner would press on during a visit to the Australian air force base serving as the hub for multinational hunt, which the coordinator warned was one of the most complicated in history.

Prime Minister Najib Razak met with his Australian counterpart, Tony Abbott, at the base near the west coast city of Perth and was briefed by Angus Houston, the head of a joint agency coordinating the search in the southern Indian Ocean.

No trace of the Boeing 777 has been found nearly a month after it vanished in the early hours of March 8 on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board.

"This is one of the most demanding and challenging search and rescue operations, or search and recovery operations, that I have ever seen - and I think probably one of the most complex operations of this nature that the world has ever seen," Houston told Najib and Abbott.

Najib's trip to Perth reinforces the reality that while Australia is coordinating the ocean search, the investigation into the tragedy ultimately remains Malaysia's responsibility. On Thursday, Najib said Australia had agreed to act as an "accredited representative in the investigation," and would be working with Malaysia to draw up a comprehensive agreement on the search.

AP

Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott, foreground left, and Malaysia Prime Minister Najib Razak, foreground second from left, accompanied by Australian Air Force Group Commander. Craig Heap, foreground second from right, and Commodore Peter Leavy commander of joint task force 658, walk on the tarmac at Royal Australian Air Force Base Pearce in Perth, Australia, Thursday, April 3, 2014.

Despite a lack of answers into the mystery of Flight 370, Najib sounded a hopeful note during his visit.

"We want to provide comfort to the families and we will not rest until answers are indeed found," he said. "In due time, we will provide a closure for this event."

On Wednesday, officials warned that the investigation may never produce answers into why the Malaysia Airlines jet disappeared. A frustrating dearth of information has plagued investigators from the moment the plane's transponders, which make the plane visible to commercial radar, were shut off.

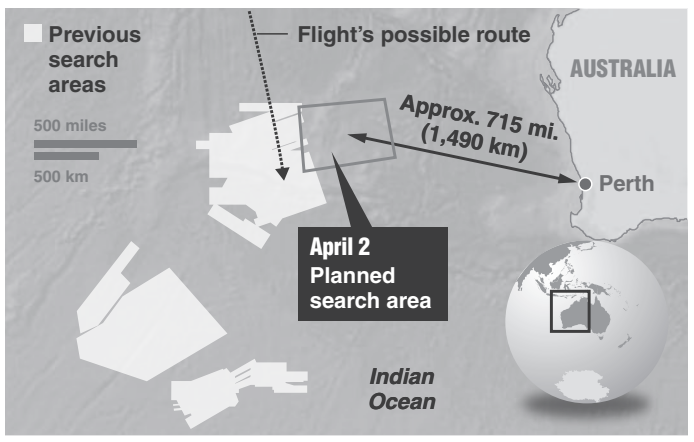
Military radar picked up the jet just under an hour later, on the other side of the Malay Peninsula. Authorities say that until then, its "movements were consistent with deliberate action by someone on the plane," but have not ruled out anything, including mechanical error.

Police are investigating the pilots and crew for any evidence suggesting they may have hijacked or sabotaged the plane. The backgrounds of the passengers, two-thirds of them Chinese, have been checked by local and international investigators and nothing suspicious has been found.

The search for the plane began over the Gulf of Thailand and South China Sea, where the plane's last communications were, and then shifted west to the Strait of Malacca. Experts then analyzed hourly satellite "handshakes" between the plane and a satellite and now believe it crashed somewhere in the southern Indian Ocean.

New search area

The search area for the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 has been moved nearly 700 mi. (1,125 km) to the northeast.



Source: ESRI, BBC, Australian Maritime Safety Authority © 2014 MCT

Pakistan's Musharraf escapes bomb attack

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani police official says a bomb exploded near a convoy carrying former President Pervez Musharraf in the capital of Islamabad but the former ruler was not harmed.

Mohammad Hayat says the bomb exploded as the general was being moved late Wednesday night from the military hospital in Rawalpindi where he has been staying to his home in Islamabad.

Hayat said Musharraf's convoy had just crossed a bridge entering the capital when the bomb went off.

Musharraf's spokeswoman, Aasia Ishaq, says he was fine and reached his home safely.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Musharraf survived multiple assassination attempts while he was in office. When he returned to the country last year the Pakistani Taliban vowed to kill him.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITIATION TO BID
2014-CDA-03-ITB

Submission & Opening Date: April 25, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m.

"SUPPLY OF TABLETS, BLUETOOTH KEYBOARDS and CASES FOR CDA"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor in Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/S/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director P&S

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND, Plaintiff, v. NICOLAS MAREHAM NEKAI and BERNADITA MANGLONA ATALIG, Defendants. — CIVIL ACTION NO.: 13-0111 — **NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 18, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right and interests of Defendants in and to the following real property, located in Kagman, Saipan:

Lot No. 002 G 300, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990 as Document No. 90-1904 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.

1. Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendants), and will be held on **Thursday, April 10, 2014**, at the hour of **2:00 p.m. at the entrance to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, D'Torres Bldg, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI.** Registration for the auction sale will begin at 1:45 p.m.

2. Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 10th day of March, 2014.

/s/ MICHELINE W. BREL, Auctioneer
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan
Tel: (670) 235-8060
Fax: (670) 235-8070
E-mail: michbrel@hotmail.com

DJ Hocog Atalig
Decia Ann H. Apatang
P.O. Box 907
Rota, MP 96951

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: D. R. A. A., Minor Child, By: DJ Hocog Atalig, Decia Ann H. Apatang, Petitioners — FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 14-0139R — **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 16, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Rota Courtroom, before the Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 27th day of March, 2014.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Monday, April 7, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
II. **Public Comments**[i]
III. **Reports**
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report
IV. **New Business**
   a. Impact of P.L. 18-38
V. **Executive Session**[ii]
VI. **Miscellaneous/Administrative Matters**
VII. **Adjournment**

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP: RFP14-DOF/REV-074

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 16, 2014 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TECHNICAL TAX CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION OFFICE"

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Division of Revenue and Taxation, Central Office, Dandan, Administration Office, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on April 07, 2014 at 10:00 a.m., local time at the Division of Revenue and Taxation, Central Office, Dandan Commercial Center, Saipan.

The CNMI government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **LARRISA C. LARSON**
Secretary of Finance

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP14-DPS-085

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 01, 2014 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PURCHASE, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF AN INTEGRATED BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES"

The RFP packet will be available on or after March 28, 2014 and may be picked-up at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held on April 15, 2014 at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Department of Public Safety, Conference Room, Susupe, Saipan.

Questions for this RFP may be submitted to Police Officer James R. Rabauliman, Project Manager via e-mail at jrrabauliman@dps.gov.mp no later than the close of business April 17, 2014. Responses to questions shall be shared with other proposers and will be sent out no later than the close of business, April 22, 2014.

The CNMI government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **JAMES C. DELEON GUERRRERO**
Commissioner of DPS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

World

Yanukovych admits mistakes on Crimea

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia (AP)—Defensive and at times tearful, Ukraine's ousted president conceded Wednesday that he made a mistake when he invited Russian troops into Crimea and vowed to try to negotiate with Vladimir Putin to get the coveted Black Sea peninsula back.

"Crimea is a tragedy, a major tragedy," Viktor Yanukovych told The Associated Press in his first interview since fleeing to Russia in February, following monthslong protests focused on corruption and his decision to seek closer ties to Russia instead of the European Union.

Putin said last month that Yanukovych had asked Russia to send its troops to Crimea to protect its people—a request seen as treason by many Ukrainians. Russian troops quickly overran Crimea, which has an ethnic Russian majority, taking over government and military facilities on the pretext of protecting Russians.

Asked about the move, Yanukovych said he made a mistake.

"I was wrong," he told the AP and Russia's state NTV television, speaking in Russian. "I acted on my emotions."

Still, Yanukovych insisted that Russia's takeover of Crimea wouldn't have happened if he had stayed in power. He also denied responsibility for the sniper deaths of about 80 protesters in Kiev in February, for which he has been charged by Ukraine's interim government.

AP

Ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych gestures during an interview with The Associated Press, in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, Wednesday, April 2, 2014.

As the world has watched the tumultuous events in Ukraine, the 63-year-old Yanukovych has rarely been seen, even as he has insisted he is still the country's true leader. While Putin has been openly dismissive of Yanukovych, the Russian president has also described him as the legitimate leader and his ouster as illegal.

Yanukovych said he has spoken with Putin only twice by phone and once in person since he arrived in Russia, describing their talks as "difficult." He said he hopes to have more meetings with the Russian leader to negotiate Crimea's return to Ukraine.

"We must search for ways ... so that Crimea may have the maximum degree of independence possible ... but be part of Ukraine," he said.

Russia annexed Crimea last month following a hastily called referendum held two weeks after Russian troops took control of the region. Ukraine and the West have rejected the vote and the annexation as illegal.

Yanukovych's comments on the Black Sea peninsula appeared to represent an attempt to shore up at least some support in his homeland, where even his backers have deserted him.

While there is no expectation that Russia will roll back its annexation, Yanukovych's statements could widen Putin's options in talks on settling the Ukrainian crisis by creating an impression that Moscow could be open for discussions on Crimea's status in the future.

Echoing the Kremlin's position, Yanukovych said the Crimean referendum, in which residents overwhelmingly voted to join Russia, was a response to threats posed by radical nationalists in Ukraine.

However, he did not answer several questions about whether he would support a move by Russia, which has deployed tens of thousands of troops near the Ukrainian border, to move into other areas of the country on the pretext of protecting ethnic Russians.

New evacuations in Chile after major aftershock

IQUIQUE, Chile (AP)—Coastal residents of Chile's far-north spent a second sleepless night outside their homes early Thursday after a major aftershock rattled an area hit a day earlier by a magnitude-8.2 earthquake that caused some damage and six deaths. No new major damage or casualties were reported.

After the 7.6-magnitude aftershock struck just before midnight Wednesday, Chile's Emergency Office and navy issued a tsunami alert and ordered a precautionary evacuation of low-lying areas for the country's whole 2,500-mile (4,000-kilometer) Pacific coastline.

Among those moved inland was President Michelle Bachelet, who was in the city of Arica assessing damage in the north from Tuesday night's powerful quake.

"I was evacuated like all citizens. One can see that the people are prepared," she tweeted early Thursday.

Chile's evacuation order initially applied to the full coast, but authorities quickly lifted the alert for all but the far-northern shore and even ended it there around 2 a.m. Thursday. The whole coast also was evacuated for several hours after Tuesday's quake, and for the night in the north, although the tsunami proved small.

The aftershock caused buildings to shake and people to run out into the streets in the port of Iquique, which was one of the cities that saw damage from the Tuesday earthquake. There were no immediate reports of serious damage or injuries from the aftershock, which was one of dozens that have followed the magnitude-8.2 quake.

State television said the aftershock caused some landslides near Alto Hospicio, a poor area in the hills above Iquique where about 2,500 homes were damaged by Tuesday' earthquake.

US troubled by Iran's choice of its UN ambassador

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. objected Wednesday to Iran's anticipated selection of a former hostage-taker at the American Embassy in Tehran as its newest ambassador to the United Nations. But the Obama administration stopped short of saying it would refuse him a visa to enter the United States.

State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf called the potential nomination of Hamid Aboutalebi "extremely troubling" and said the U.S. has raised its concerns with Tehran. Lawmakers in Congress who usually disagree on everything-ranging from liberal New York Democrat Sen. Chuck Schumer and conservative Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz-have demanded that Aboutalebi be barred from living and working in the United States.

But Harf noted that except in limited cases, the U.S. is generally obligated to admit the chosen representatives of member states to U.N. headquarters in New York.

"We're taking a close look at the case now, and we've raised our serious concerns about this possible nomination with the government of Iran," Harf told reporters. She added: "But we do take our obligations as host nation for the United Nations very seriously."

Hamid Babaei, a spokesman for Iran's Mission to the United Nations, said Wednesday, "It has been a usual practice in the Iranian Foreign Ministry to formally announce and appoint ambassadors-to all foreign postings-once all the formalities are completed."

Aboutalebi was a member of a Muslim student group that stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979 and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days. He reportedly has insisted that his involvement in the group-Muslim Students Following the Imam's Line-was limited to translation and negotiation.

But lawmakers have derided Aboutalebi as a terrorist and a key conspirator in the hostage crisis, and warned that his nomination would escalate tensions in already delicate negotiations aimed at curbing Tehran's nuclear program.

Imprisoned spy may be key for Kerry on peace talks

JERUSALEM (AP)—In an improbable twist, the fate of an imprisoned American who spied for Israel could now play a big role in rescuing Middle East peace negotiations after a dramatic Palestinian rebuff to Secretary of State John Kerry.

With Kerry's efforts in tatters, a three-way deal that includes the United States releasing Jonathan Pollard could provide incentives for Israel and the Palestinians to break the deadlock and extend the talks.

But critics say the sudden focus on Pollard has turned attention away from the real issues that need to be addressed to end decades of conflict. And it may have raised the Palestinians' asking price: They realize that with Israel so eager to free Pollard, they may be able to hold out for broader Israeli concessions.

Palestinian officials, for instance, say they have discussed the possibility of seeking the release of the top Palestinian prisoner held by Israel, Marwan Barghouti, as part of any arrangement involving Pollard. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose internal deliberations, said they have to date been hesitant to raise the issue in connection with Pollard for fear of being seen as meddling in internal American affairs.

Negotiations on a peace deal hit a major snag late Tuesday when Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas abruptly renewed a campaign for recognition of the "state of Palestine" in international bodies.

Abbas had promised to suspend the campaign when peace talks resumed in July but angrily reversed course after Israel failed to carry out a promised prisoner release. The move forced Kerry to cancel a planned trip back to the region and threatened to derail the talks completely.

U.S. officials said Kerry spoke with Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during the day and that negotiators from the sides would meet later Wednesday in Jerusalem.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the U.S. was "disappointed by the unhelpful unilateral actions that both parties have taken in recent days." He said Kerry remains in close touch with negotiating teams, but added that the parties "must take the necessary steps if they want to move forward."

Palestinian officials said Wednesday they had no desire to quit the negotiations.

"We hope that Kerry renews his efforts in the coming days," Yasser Abed Rabbo, a top Palestinian official, said in the West Bank town of Ramallah. "We don't want his mission to fail."

Science & Technology

Microsoft unveils Siri-like feature

NEW YORK (AP)—Microsoft unveiled a new virtual assistant for Windows Phone devices Wednesday as it seeks to gain traction in a highly competitive and lucrative market for smartphones.

The assistant, Cortana, is named after an artificial-intelligence character in the company's "Halo" video games. Cortana tries to be chatty like Apple's Siri, while anticipating information you might want, like Google Now.

Cortana is among the new features coming to a Windows Phone update called 8.1. The updated operating system will come with new phones in about a month, including three that Nokia announced Wednesday. It will also be available as a free download for existing phones a few months later.

Microsoft is also updating its Windows 8.1 system for tablets, laptops and desktops. Although Microsoft has been pushing touch-screen controls, the new update is designed to make it easier for those with traditional keyboard and mouse controls. The update, simply called Windows 8.1 Update, is available starting next Tuesday.

AP

Stepen Elop, executive vice president of Nokia, demonstrates the picture taking ability of the new Nokia Lumia 930 phone during a keynote address of the Microsoft Build Conference Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in San Francisco.

The announcements come as Microsoft Corp. opened its annual Build conference in San Francisco. The conference is aimed at developers who write software for Microsoft systems, though it's also a chance for the company to showcase its products more broadly and to build interest among the digitally connected.

Most of the new features relate to Windows Phone, a system that hadn't received as much attention as the main Windows system in recent years. But it's an area where Microsoft sees growth opportunities and underscores its commitment to mobile devices and services under new CEO Satya Nadella.

Amazon unveils Fire TV streaming device

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon is making a bid to enter living rooms with Amazon Fire TV, a new streaming device that delivers online video, music and other content to televisions.

The company says the $99 device has better speed, performance and search functions than other streaming boxes such as Apple TV and Google Chromecast. But Amazon is coming late to the streaming device game, and it remains to be seen whether the company is offering enough new and better services to lure customers away from their current streaming methods.

Amazon created buzz about the device last week when it sent an invitation to the media hinting about an update to its video service. It debuted the box at Milk Studios in New York to about 200 media members, offering movie snacks like popcorn and Milk Duds.

The device, about the size of a CD case, runs Google's Android operating system and offers Netflix, Hulu and other streaming channels in addition to Amazon Prime instant video. It comes with a Bluetooth remote, which lets users search for video by talking to the remote. Customers will get a free 30-day trial subscription to Netflix and Amazon Prime when they buy a Fire TV.

TECH Q&A

TV providers make it tough to record onto DVDs

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: My VCR-DVD recorder now appears to be blocked by DirecTV from recording TV shows on a DVD. All channels display the message, "Copy Protected. Can Not Record." Should I toss out my DVD recorder and get a DVR (digital video recorder)?—Bob Madaras, Edina, Minn.

ANSWER: If you plan to continue using DirecTV, your DVD recorder won't be good for much. While DirecTV isn't the only TV provider to use copy protection, it appears to have done so more extensively than others.

This is how entertainment producers maintain control of their shows, and prevent viewers from making personal copies. Yes, recording TV shows for personal use is legal. But that doesn't mean the show producers have to make it easy for you.

The copy protection does allow you to record temporary copies of TV shows to a DVR, which has a disk drive that can be erased. Some TV shows contain expiration dates that cause them to be automatically erased from the hard drive on those days.

Don't bother trying to copy shows from your DVR to your DVD recorder. The copy protection software thwarts that, too.

Q: I've used Google Chrome as my browser for years. But a few of the businesses I deal with ask that I sign onto their sites using Microsoft's Internet Explorer, so I recently downloaded IE 11.0.4. Now, when Chrome starts up, I get four tabs (separate screens) automatically opening up. These are the same four tabs that I have previously closed on IE 11. Why is this happening? How can I make it stop?—Fred Raleigh, Paso Robles, Calif.

A: I think it happens because the Internet Explorer 11 and Chrome browsers have an odd symbiotic relationship.

The creators of Chrome realized that some Web pages still require using the Internet Explorer browser. So they gave Chrome a function called "IE Tab," which causes Chrome to use Internet Explorer to open IE-specific Web pages inside the Chrome browser.

I think that may cause Chrome to reopen the tabs that you previously had open in Internet Explorer 11. While I doubt you can fix this problem, give this a try:

Click the three horizontal bars at the top right of Chrome, choose" Settings" and look at "On startup." The choices are "Open the New Tab page" (your start page will be Google), "Continue where I left off" (your start page will be the page you most recently viewed) and "Open a specific page or set of pages" (opens one or more previously designated pages). If No. 3 is checked, choose the first or second settings.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Nebraska dog dials 911 on owner's smartphone

BELLEVUE, Neb. (AP)—When emergency dispatchers in Nebraska's Sarpy County picked up a recent call, all they heard were the sounds of breathing and scratching. Dispatchers were worried - until they learned the noises were coming from a dog who dialed 911. Sarpy County 911 Assistant Director Marilyn Gable tells Omaha television station KETV (http://bit.ly/1m6BSWd) that it's the first time a dog has called the emergency center. The dog's owner, Melissa Acosta, says she thought her 2-pound Japanese Chin, Sophie, was trying to curl up next to her on the couch, when she realized Sophie was scratching at Acosta's smartphone with her paw. Then Acosta heard a voice from the phone asking for an "address of the emergency." Acosta says the whole thing is "a little embarrassing." Sophie, of course, had no comment.

NY college to offer Miley Cyrus class, twerk-free

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (AP)—A college in upstate New York is offering a summer course on Miley Cyrus and won't even make students do any class twerk. The Saratogian newspaper reports (http://bit.ly/1rEU9Og) the course will be offered by Skidmore College, a private liberal arts college in Saratoga Springs. Visiting Assistant Professor Carolyn Chernoff calls the course "The Sociology of Miley Cyrus: Race, Class, Gender and Media." Chernoff says she'll focus on the 21-year-old performer and all her incarnations as a way to study such topics as gender, race, class, fame and power. She says she got the idea after teaching a course on youth culture that featured video of Cyrus twerking at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards. But Chernoff says students will have to learn how to twerk on their own time.

Woolly creatures join tourists in Louvre Museum

PARIS (AP)—It's not every day that you can stand in line at the Louvre Museum next to a flock of live sheep. But that's what happened to tourists Friday caught up in a protest by small farmers beneath the glass pyramid of the Paris museum. Louvre officials said there were no arrests or damage in the protest, and it didn't disrupt operations at one of the world's most-visited tourist sites. The few dozen protesters, from the Peasants' Confederation, are angry at proposed subsidy cuts that they say unfairly punish small farms and favor big agribusiness. The cuts are part of a broader reform of European Union agricultural policy. Dairy farmer Laurent Pinatel argued that small farms deserve support because they are important to France's economy, identity and culinary reputation.

Man does C-section on dead porcupine, saves baby

LISBON, Maine (AP)—A Maine man in search of a valuable mineral cut open a dead porcupine on the side of the road and unexpectedly pulled out its baby. Jared Buzzell, of Lisbon, says he was searching for wild mushrooms Thursday when he saw a porcupine get hit by a car in Minot. Buzzell says he'd heard that a valuable mineral deposit used in Chinese medicine formed in the stomachs of porcupines. He then cut open the dead porcupine to search for the mineral and instead found the baby.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

Lot No.: 003 D 22 AEDTFA ST. GARAPAN (Annex), SAIPAN MINIMUM BID: $76,950.00

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on May 5, 2014, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for each property shall be $(please see above).
2. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facisimile: 234-9021; or to Law Office of Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard).The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.
6. Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 2nd day of April, 2014.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Life & Style

2 legendary stars play 'Game of Thrones' in-laws

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

This image released by HBO shows Natalie Dormer, left, and Diana Rigg in a scene from "Game of Thrones." AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Like every "Game of Thrones" fan, Charles Dance was gobsmacked by last season's next-to-last installment.

That episode floored viewers with its ritualistic "red wedding," a massacre staged by Lord Walder Frey, the bride's father, who meant to settle a score with his hall of guests, and did.

"I got quite a shock!" says Dance, speaking for everyone who saw it. "It was bloody in the extreme!"

The fact that Dance was caught off-guard is notable, since he's a star of the show. Indeed, the character he plays, Lord Tywin Lannister, had a hand in the bloodshed.

But he didn't actually appear in that episode, "and when I'm not in it, to be honest with you, I don't read the script," Dance says. "I catch up on what's happening when the episode airs."

"Game of Thrones," which returns Sunday at 9 p.m. EDT on HBO, will pack its next punch soon enough in the new season. Such is the nature of this epic fantasy, set on a make-believe continent called Westeros, chock-full of warring kingdoms, rugged landscapes, lots of sex and swordplay, and, of course, fire-breathing dragons.

If the scale of the series is vast, the source material is no less sprawling: the five-and-counting novels by George R.R. Martin in the "A Song of Ice and Fire" series.

"I still have not read the books," says Dance. "They frighten me, books that thick. And, anyway, we're dealing with an adaptation. I think it's counterproductive for actors to come to the set with well-thumbed copies of the book their film is adapted from."

Dance's despotic Lord Tywin is the grandfather of King Joffrey, an infantile tyrant whose betrothed is the granddaughter of Olenna Tyrell. Lady Olenna is played by Diana Rigg.

On-screen soon-to-be in-laws, Rigg and Dance have known and worked together for decades, including a 1997 British TV adaptation of "Rebecca." Little wonder they get on famously as they meet with a reporter at a Manhattan hotel.

Rigg says she hasn't read the "Game of Thrones" books either.

"I rely upon the directors to fill me in before a shot," she confides. "They're very good with reminders."

The show's dozens of cast members include Peter Dinklage, Lena Headey, Jack Gleeson, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau and Emilia Clarke. Asked what drew him into this elite community, Dance smiles and answers, "The writing was good, the costumes are great and, eventually, the location catering was fantastic."

"I loved the idea of playing this naughty old bag," Rigg says, offering her own explanation. "It's my idea of heaven."

Now 75, Rigg has had a rich and varied career in theater, both in her native Britain and as a Tony Award winner on Broadway, as well as films including the James Bond caper "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" and even an NBC sitcom.

But her breakout role was in 1965 in the British TV thriller "The Avengers," where she played the catsuit-clad karate queen Emma Peel.

"It put me on the map," she says, "which a lifetime of Shakespeare wouldn't have done."

Tall and imperial, Dance, 67, grew up working-class in England and overcame a teenage stammer to devote himself to theater. His breakout project was the 1984 British TV hit "The Jewel in the Crown," which he followed with such films as "Michael Collins" and "Gosford Park" and the British miniseries "Bleak House," as well as lots of theater.

His first job: working as a dresser in the original West End production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

Then he landed a spot in a London repertory company with a crushing regime: "It was 16 plays in 16 weeks. `What's my motivation?' `Your weekly paycheck. Just learn the lines and don't bump into the furniture.'"

Learning the lines wasn't always possible, as when Dance's mind went blank during a performance of "Charley's Aunt." But he was rescued. "A co-star came onstage with a tray. `Letter for you, sir.' And on the tray was the page I needed from the script."

Likewise, Rigg paid her dues in repertory. Besides dashing onstage to say her lines, she was charged with such production chores as handling recorded sound effects and background music.

"Once, when the curtain was coming down, I was supposed to play `Ride of the Valkyries,'" she says. Instead, she mistakenly cued up a polka. "The looks I got from the rest of the cast at our curtain call!"

Rigg and Dance are cracking up at their shared memories of starting out so long ago. But both are caught short by this inquiry: When did you know you had finally made it?

"When I could book a holiday," Dance replies after a bit of thought, "and know there was a job to come back to."

As for Rigg, "It was when I found money in a handbag I didn't know I had: `How did THAT get in there and how did I not notice it? I must be on my way!'"

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Fri.(420 PM) 725 PM 1000 PM
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DIVERGENT [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri.(410 PM) 720 PM 1030 PM
Sat.(105 410) 720 1030
Sun.(105 PM 410 PM) 720 PM
Mon. - Thu.(410 PM) 720 PM
300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat.(430 PM) 940 PM
Sun. - Wed.(430 PM)
Thu.(430 PM) 940 PM
300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE 3D [CC,DV] (R) Fri.710 PM
Sat. - Sun.(110 PM) 710 PM
Mon. - Thu.710 PM
MR. PEABODY AND SHERMAN [CC,DV] (PG) Fri.645 PM 915 PM
Sat.(130 PM) 645 PM 915 PM
Sun.(130 PM) 645 PM
Mon. - Wed.645 PM
Thu.645 PM 900 PM
MR. PEABODY AND SHERMAN 3D [CC,DV] (PG) Fri. - Thu.(425 PM)
NON-STOP [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri.(405 PM) 705 PM 950 PM
Sat.(120 405) 705 950
Sun.(120 PM 405 PM) 705 PM
Mon. - Thu.(405 PM) 705 PM
Times For 04/04 - 04/10 www.REGmovies.com

'Captain America' superhero role 'epic' for Mackie

By JESSICA HERNDON
AP FILM WRITER

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—For Anthony Mackie, landing the role of the Falcon in "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" meant more than inking his dream deal with Marvel.

"When I heard I got the role I broke down in tears," said Mackie in a recent interview. "I realized two years from that date some little brown boy was going to be at my door in a Falcon costume on Halloween. When I was a kid I didn't have that. It wasn't like I could get asked, `Who do you want to be for Halloween?' and say Shaft. Being the Falcon is monumental."

Working with Marvel has been a longtime goal for Mackie, though he imagined playing a villain, not a superhero. "I wanted to be like the Joker and get my Heath Ledger on," he said. "I would send Marvel an email, like every four to five months. I was calling saying, `I'll work for free.' About two years ago they sent me a letter saying, `Don't call us, we'll call you.' I was like `Damn - Marvel mad at me.'"

Roughly six months before filming began on "The Winter Soldier" in April 2013, directors Anthony and Joe Russo offered Mackie a role in the comic-book adaptation.

"It was epic," recalls Mackie, who admits he didn't know much about the character Sam Wilson, who becomes the Falcon, one of the first African-American superheroes in a mainstream comic.

"I read up on him and immediately got into the gym," he added with a laugh. "I thought if I am wearing that much spandex I have to be in shape."

AP

In this Wednesday, March 12, 2014 photo, Anthony Mackie, a cast member in "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," poses for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif.

When "The Winter Soldier" hits theaters Friday, it will likely become the role for which the 35-year-old Mackie is most known. But it was his portrayal of a bomb disposal team sergeant in Kathryn Bigelow's Oscar-winning war thriller "The Hurt Locker" that paved the way for mainstream success.

"Both his roles in `Half Nelson' and `The Hurt Locker' showed him to be an actor of real weight," said "Winter Soldier" executive producer Nate Moore. "When we were looking to cast the role of Sam Wilson, we knew we wanted an actor who would feel like an equal to Steve Rogers (Chris Evans). We'd kicked some names back and forth, but none of the names ever rose above the first we discussed - Anthony Mackie. Once we met Anthony in person, we were sold. He charmed us."

Growing up in New Orleans, acting was the last thing on Mackie's mind. The self-professed troublemaker said he probably would have been on Ritalin in today's world. "But I had this great teacher who introduced me to Shakespeare, which opened my eyes to a different idea of who I could be."

He suffered a blow at 15, when his mother died. Mackie's inheritance after his mother's estate was split among him and his five siblings was $550. He used $542 to travel to New York to audition for Juilliard - and got in.

"It confirmed to me that I had the ability to do this and make a living at it," he recalled.

It also offered him the chance to turn his anger into positive energy after her death.

"The greatest blessing that she could have given me was letting me become my own man," he said. "Once I got into school everything took off."

While at Juilliard, he was cast in Eminem hit biopic "8 Mile." Since then, he's appeared in over 30 movies, from indie flicks to big budget, all-star films.

Artist plants fake Bieber CDs in LA stores

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An artist is making it difficult to believe there's actually a copy of Justin Bieber's latest album for sale in Los Angeles.

Paz Dylan, a 25-year-old electronic musician and artist known only as Paz, says he planted 5,000 copies of an album that appears to be Bieber's "Believe" but actually contains a copy of Dylan's own CD.

The fakes appeared at retailers such as Best Buy, Target and Wal-Mart on Tuesday, April Fools' Day.

"We were meticulous," said Paz, who fancies the stunt as more of a performance art piece than a gag. "We paid a lot of attention to detail because we wanted these to stay up on shelves as long as possible."

The wrapped CDs resemble "Believe" right down to the bar code and silky Bieber portrait on the cover. However, Paz's artwork is on the inside of the back cover, and the disc itself is slathered with images of cats, pizzas and a dog stuffed inside a taco.

The CD itself contains the 13 tracks from Paz's synth-heavy independent release "From the Bottom of My Heart to the Top of Your Lungs."

The only differentiating factor is that Paz's subversive CD package lacks the kind of sticker that usually covers the top of a CD case, which is found beneath the wrapper of most unopened albums.

The Associated Press independently verified the stunt by purchasing random copies of what looked like Bieber's "Believe" from widely scattered Los Angeles-area locations such as a Wal-Mart in Baldwin Hills, Target in Burbank and Best Buy stores in West Hollywood and Culver City.

AP

In this image an album that appears to be Justin Bieber's "Believe" sits on the rack at the Best Buy in Culver City, Calif., Tuesday April 1, 2014.

In each instance, the CDs were scanned and paid for as if they were Bieber CDs. But when they were opened outside the store, each contained a copy of Paz's album, not Bieber's.

"Although Mr. Dylan is clearly not a Belieber, we know that many of our customers are, and we are taking care of those who didn't get what they intended to purchase," said Best Buy spokeswoman Carly Morris.

Target spokesman Evan Lapiska said the company was aware of the claim and was investigating the matter, while Wal-Mart spokeswoman Sarah McKinney said customers could return the CD for a full refund or the real version.

"We know that every great artist wants to get on the shelf at Wal-Mart, but there's a right way to do it," said McKinney. "All of our L.A. stores are making an extra effort to ensure this faux Bieber CD is removed."

A message left for Bieber's spokeswoman wasn't immediately returned.

Why did Paz replace Bieber and not some other performer's CD?

"The world won't really miss a Justin Bieber record," said Paz.

Paz said he wanted to use big-box retailers as his artistic canvas by "droplifting" his music into the hands of consumers.

"The general idea is that retail stores make it almost impossible for independent musicians to get their music in there," said Paz. "I've always believed that retail stores can be the best outlets and ambassadors for independent music. They just choose not to be and sell the same recycled (expletive). We thought if they're going to lock their doors to independent musicians, we're just going to knock them down and get our music in there."

Paz, who enlisted fellow artists for the city-wide switcheroo, declined to say how much it cost to produce the mock albums or what he did with the existing Bieber records on store shelves.

Colin Egglesfield accused of disorderly conduct

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—Authorities say actor Colin Egglesfield has been arrested on allegations that he damaged property at an Arizona arts festival.

Tempe police say the 41-year-old actor known for his roles on "The Client List" and "All My Children" was arrested around 2:30 a.m. Saturday on charges of disorderly conduct and criminal damage.

Officers say Egglesfield knocked over a table and metal stanchions surrounding some artwork at the Tempe Festival of the Arts.

Police say several smaller signs inside a tent were ripped.

Egglesfield was booked into Tempe City Jail before being released on $1,000 bail.

A message seeking comment was left with the actor's manager Wednesday.

Egglesfield was featured in the movie "Something Borrowed" with Kate Hudson and also has a recurring role on the TNT drama "Rizzoli & Isles."

AP

In this May 17, 2013 file photo, actor Colin Egglesfield attends a benefit held by Mammoth Entertainment and LyonHeartLove Foundation to protect illegally poached African Rhino in Cannes, southern France.

Willie Nelson's armadillo returned after theft

HENDERSON, Nev. (AP)—A stuffed armadillo that serves as an on-stage mascot for country music legend Willie Nelson has been returned after being kidnapped from a Las Vegas-area show.

Officials at the Westin Lake Las Vegas resort in Henderson say the critter, named Ol' Dillo, vanished while audience members were greeting Nelson after a Monday night concert.

Westin marketing director Matt Boland says Nelson's crew called in the middle of the night from the road, asking the resort to scour surveillance footage after the mascot went missing.

Boland says he was outside the hotel Tuesday morning when an apologetic man drove up and handed him a shoebox and instructions to return it to Nelson.

Boland says the armadillo was inside and was sent to the singer in California.

Man gets jail for trespassing at Selena Gomez home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors say a man charged with trespassing at Selena Gomez's home has been sentenced to 45 days in jail and ordered to stay away from the singer-actress.

Los Angeles district attorney's spokesman Ricardo Santiago says Che Cruz admitted trespassing at an initial court appearance Wednesday and was immediately sentenced.

Cruz was arrested Sunday in Gomez's guesthouse and was charged Wednesday with one count of misdemeanor trespassing.

Santiago says Cruz was sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to stay away from Gomez and her home in Calabasas (cal-uh-BASS'-us), Calif.

Authorities say Gomez arrived home Sunday night and called security after hearing noises on the property.

Gomez rose to fame as the star of the TV series "Wizards of Waverly Place."

Romantic night out comes at a cost for relationship

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for two years. We recently spent a romantic night at a hotel, complete with dinner, drinks—the whole shebang—that he organized.

I know he was a little stressed about money because he mentioned it. He asked if I could shell out some money, which I did, and when the bill came, he asked me if I could shell out some more.

I was a little upset because I wasn't planning on spending that much. He says he is going to pay me back some of it, and now I just feel bad. I told him I didn't enjoy being put in that situation and things got awkward quickly.

Now I am the one apologizing, and I feel like I ruined our night. Am I being a brat?

NEW YORK READER

DEAR N.Y. READER: I don't think so. If your boyfriend couldn't afford to pay for the romantic evening, he should have discussed it with you beforehand so you wouldn't be put on the spot.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I work at an elementary school, and I help out during lunch, keeping order and making sure the kids are not too loud. Two of their moms work here. The kids are bullies and have no respect for adults whatsoever.

When I try to discipline them or give them a time out, they go to their moms and accuse me of targeting them because they are black. Then the moms come to me and complain and ask me why I'm "targeting" them.

This is causing me a lot of stress. I can't allow them to bully other kids, but at the same time I don't want trouble with the parents. How can I approach this situation without it getting more complicated?

SCHOOLYARD MOM IN FLORIDA

DEAR SCHOOLYARD MOM: Because these women are preventing you from effectively supervising the children, which is your job, you should address this problem with the principal of the school.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law watches my four kids so I can work outside the home. On the off chance that she can't, she tells me my brother-in-law will watch them. While I appreciate her gesture of trying to "cover her shift," my brother-in-law is irresponsible, suffers from severe depression and smokes pot.

I don't want to be rude, but I don't like her leaving my kids with him. Is there an OK way to tell her that, or do I need to stop being "overprotective" and suck it up?

MOMMY OF FOUR

DEAR MOMMY: It would not be rude to tell your mother-in-law that while you appreciate her watching your children, if for any reason she cannot do it, you would prefer to make your own arrangements for who will supervise them. If she asks you why, then be frank with her about your concerns—all of which are valid. That is not being overprotective; it is being conscientious.

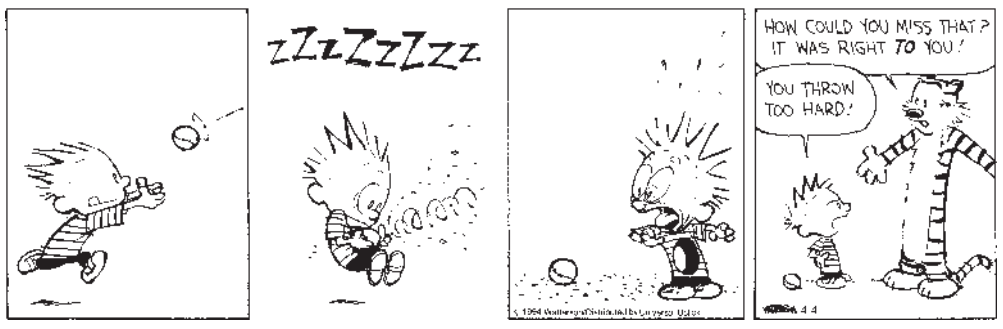
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



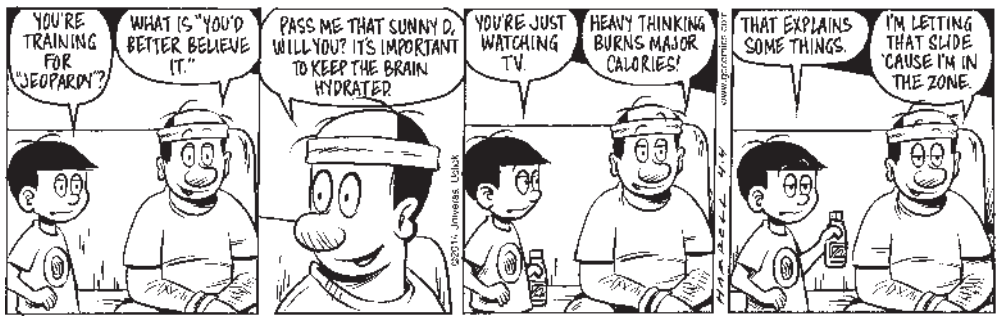
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WHAT IF LIZ BREAKS UP WITH ME?
I CAN'T HANDLE REJECTION
RIDICULE AND SCORN, BUT NOT REJECTION
YOU ALSO DO LOATHING WELL
JIM DAVIS 4-4

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU'RE TRAINING FOR "JEOPARDY"?
WHAT IS "YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE IT."
PASS ME THAT SUNNY D, WILL YOU? IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE BRAIN HYDRATED
YOU'RE JUST WATCHING TV.
HEAVY THINKING BURNS MAJOR CALORIES!
THAT EXPLAINS SOME THINGS.
I'M LETTING THAT SLIDE 'CAUSE I'M IN THE ZONE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

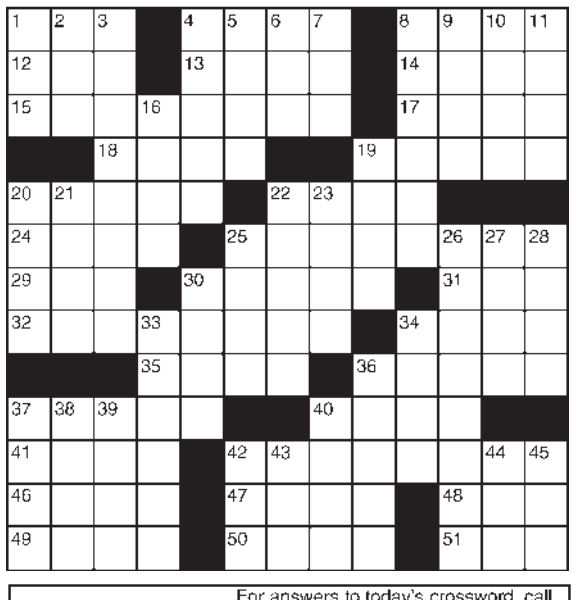
ACROSS
1 Blond shade
4 Carpet style
8 Make bootees
12 Prompt
13 Big brass bellower
14 Zilch, south of the border
15 Man of 12 labors
17 Always
18 Pop
19 Song of joy
20 Stallone hero
22 Snitched
24 Rue the run
25 En-raptured
29 That boat
30 Sprite
31 Tokyo's old name
32 Unfit to swim in
34 Jail on board
35 "Sad to say ..."
36 Borscht base
37 Morass
40 Pleased
41 Arrived
42 Religious dis-senters
46 Shake-speare's river
47 Cupid's alias
48 Also
49 Top-rated
50 Kittens' com-ments
51 Thither

DOWN
1 Essen exclama-tion
2 Seek damages
3 Discover-er of Uranus
4 Learn
5 Shake in the grass?
6 Honest politician?
7 Petrol
8 Massages
9 Church area
10 Concept
11 Mountain lake
16 Pepsi rival
19 Ballet bend
20 Grate
21 Twice cuatro
22 One of Franklin's certain-ties
23 "Meta-mor-phoses" poet
25 Ms. Moreno
26 Genetics
27 Rewrite, maybe
28 AKC subjects
30 "— Fiction"
33 Mourn
34 Thrash
36 Sanctify
37 Wound cover
38 Greet silently
39 Old Testa-ment prophet
40 Get bigger
42 Height of fashion?
43 Before
44 Dove's call
45 Junior

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	O	B	B	■	S	U	M	■	A	F	A	R
O	D	O	R	■	I	F	A	■	S	E	M	I
M	I	R	O	■	N	O	R	■	P	A	I	D
B	E	N	N	I	E	■	G	A	I	T	■	■
■	■	■	C	O	W	C	A	T	C	H	E	R
L	E	M	O	N	■	H	U	E	■	E	M	O
A	S	I	S	■	L	A	X	■	P	R	I	M
M	A	L	■	F	E	Z	■	B	A	S	T	E
B	U	L	L	D	O	Z	E	R	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	D	A	R	N	■	M	A	S	T	E	R
D	I	A	Z	■	A	G	O	■	I	O	W	A
A	C	M	E	■	R	A	T	■	O	M	E	N
B	E	S	S	■	D	Y	E	■	N	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 4-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Downey Jr., 49; David Cross, 50; Christine Lahti, 64; Craig T. Nelson, 70.

Happy Birthday: Approach your goals with passion and display what you have to offer with imagination, and you will get the support you need to advance. As long as you stick to your game plan and your budget, the outcome looks promising. People from your past will play a role in your life—some favorable, some not so favorable. Be discreet. Your numbers are 2, 14, 20, 26, 31, 35, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep an open mind. A positive, enthusiastic approach to a situation will help you avoid an argument. A willingness to compromise and work alongside others will help you achieve goals and avoid unnecessary upset and opposition. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take care of your responsibilities. Follow through with a promise you made, and be sure not to divulge a secret you've been trusted to keep. Ask questions and gather information that will help you expand your knowledge. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stick to the task you've been given. Uncertainty will lead to a poor choice. You are best to do your work, say little and wait until you are fully satisfied with the work you have done before presenting it to others. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Concentrate on getting ahead. Refuse to take on someone else's job when you have your own to complete. The work you do must be your best if you want to be considered for advancement. Don't alter your plans because someone is unpredictable. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make changes based on the information you gather and what you learn by observing others. A change at home will play in your favor. Fixing up your surroundings will make you feel more at home. Romance will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Avoid joint ventures or mixing business with pleasure. Spend more time expanding your interests and building your relationships with people who share your beliefs and goals. Rely on your business savvy to point you in the right direction. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Set your sights on what you want to see unfold, and make it happen. Travel, communications and making personal changes should be at the top of your to-do list. Love is highlighted, along with self-improvement and socializing. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make choices based on the way you feel. Your intuition won't let you down. Learning will come easy if you step back and watch the mistakes others make. A personal investment can alter how or where you live. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Listen carefully and say as little as possible. Confusion is apparent if you get into discussions. Don't believe everything you hear. Make the changes at home that will help secure your financial position, not put you further in debt. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Moderation and simplicity will be required if you want to avoid a scene. Arguing will lead to a no-win situation. Put more effort into completing your work and nurturing important partnerships. Don't be afraid to take the road less traveled. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Prepare to make whatever changes are required in order to reach your goal. There is money to be made if you put in extra hours. Clear a workspace at home that you can use to develop a part-time business. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keeping a secret will buy you time and help you avoid emotional upset. Developing an interest you have will open up new possibilities that can add to your income. Socializing with friends or getting together with your lover will ease stress. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic and bright. You are inquisitive and outgoing.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					4	5
		2		6		
	4		9			8
		6			7	4
	7			2		1
8			5			3
2					5	6
				4		8
		3	2			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	7	9	8	6	5	4	3
6	3	4	1	7	5	2	8	9
5	8	9	4	3	2	6	7	1
9	7	2	3	6	4	1	5	8
4	6	3	8	5	1	9	2	7
8	1	5	7	2	9	3	6	4
3	5	8	2	1	7	4	9	6
7	4	6	5	9	3	8	1	2
2	9	1	6	4	8	7	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ANTONIO BANDERAS Solution: 7 letters

S	R	Z	K	S	T	O	O	B	N	I	S	S	U	P
E	D	O	E	E	V	I	T	A	R	S	S	T	A	R
L	E	R	T	N	R	O	L	E	A	S	P	M	U	O
A	S	B	A	C	I	H	C	I	E	O	A	O	T	D
T	P	A	G	W	A	N	S	I	R	B	F	I	N	U
A	E	E	I	Y	A	U	V	I	A	D	N	R	A	C
F	R	S	U	D	L	O	G	L	I	Ⓔ	I	E	M	E
E	A	O	P	A	M	I	A	R	B	Ⓗ	A	M	S	R
M	D	J	D	A	N	N	E	N	E	Ⓒ	R	M	D	O
M	O	N	L	A	I	C	A	M	N	G	K	U	R	T
E	A	A	L	Y	T	N	A	S	U	O	N	S	O	A
F	G	S	Z	O	I	A	D	D	O	F	D	I	W	R
A	I	A	R	R	O	O	M	S	I	N	R	A	S	R
N	R	L	B	T	H	E	A	T	E	R	E	E	M	A
C	D	O	M	I	N	G	U	E	Z	S	F	X	P	N

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Actor, Andalusia, Awards, Benito, Che, Crazy in Alabama, Dancer, Desperado, Director, Dominguez, Evita, Femme Fatale, Film, Four, Frida, Gabi, Jose, Madonna, Malaga, Matador, Movies, Narrator, Nasonex, Nine, Original Sin, Perfume, Producer, Puig, Puss in Boots, Rain, Role, Rooms, Shrek, Singer, Spain, Star, Summer, Swordsman, Theater, Zorba

Yesterday's Answer: Composer

The **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2** is here! Purchase online at wonderword.universaluclick.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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Job Vacancy Announcement

One (1) Kitchen Staff
Minimum of 2 years work experience, can work in flexible hours including weekends and holidays.

One (1) Baker
Minimum of 10 years work experience as pastry maker .

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Minimum of 5 years work experience, must be reliable, can work under pressure and flexible hours. Must be computer literate, proficient both in writing and speaking communication. Can speak and understand basic Japanese.

All applicants must provide latest Police Clearance and willing to undergo drug test. Must have their own means of transportation.

All applicants must apply in person with their resume (with picture) at:
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(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Codominium
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view.
$700/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
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Wizards top Celtics 118-92 to clinch playoff berth

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Washington Wizards are in the playoffs for the first time since 2008, clinching an Eastern Conference berth Wednesday night with a 118-92 win over the Boston Celtics.

Marcin Gortat scored 22 points to lead the Wizards, who gathered for a celebratory huddle at midcourt after the final whistle. John Wall, the 2010 No. 1 overall draft pick playing the first meaningful late-season games of his career, added 13 points and 10 assists.

The Wizards' playoff position had been relatively secure for several weeks in the weakened East, but seeing the magic number reach zero was a milestone worth noting for a franchise whose win totals since their last postseason appearance have been 19, 26, 23, 20 and 29—never finishing better than 24 games below .500.

Jared Sullinger had 25 points, and Rajon Rondo had 13 to lead the Celtics.

Spurs 111, Warriors 90

In San Antonio, Tony Parker had 18 points and eight assists, while Tim Duncan had 15 points and eight rebounds as San Antonio extended its franchise-record winning streak to 19 games.

San Antonio (59-16) extended its league-leading record to four games over the Thunder City (54-19) ahead of their matchup Thursday night in Oklahoma City.

Bulls 105, Hawks 92

In Atlanta, D.J. Augustin scored 23 points as Chicago bumped slumping Atlanta out of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference with two weeks left in the season.

Chicago took control with a 16-3 run in the second quarter and led the rest of the way, fending off the last of Atlanta's runs when Jimmy Butler swished a 3-pointer with just over a minute remaining.

The Hawks lost for the 21st time in 28 games, this one dropping them slightly behind New York for the eighth playoff seed. The Knicks (33-43) routed Brooklyn 110-81 to climb percentage points ahead of Atlanta (32-42). Cleveland is also in the mix after beating Orlando.

Paul Millsap led the Hawks with 22 points.

Knicks 110, Nets 81

In New York, J.R. Smith had 24 points, eight rebounds and six assists and Carmelo Anthony added 23 points and 10 rebounds as New York beat city rival Brooklyn to extend a late-season playoff push.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 17 points a game after spraining his right ankle to help the Knicks win for the 12th time in 15 games, dominating a team that had the best record in the Eastern Conference since the new year. New York won its third straight and moved percentage points ahead of Atlanta for the eighth and final playoff spot in the East when the Hawks lost to the Bulls.

The Knicks made 24 of 36 shots in taking a 63-38 halftime time in front of new president Phil Jackson, finishing at a season-high 60 percent and outrebounding Brooklyn 41-23.

Joe Johnson scored 16 points for the Nets, who had won three straight.

Raptors 107, Rockets 103

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 29 points, Jonas Valanciunas and Greivis Vasquez each had 15, helping Toronto win its seventh straight home meeting with Houston.

Terrence Ross scored 14 points and John Salmons had 12 as the short-handed Raptors won for the fourth time in five games.

James Harden scored 26 points and Chandler Parsons had 20 for the Rockets, who lost their third straight after winning the previous five.

The Rockets hurt themselves by missing eight of 30 free throw attempts, including five misses in the fourth quarter.

Jeremy Lin scored 16 points and Donatas Motiejunas had 13 for the Rockets, who could have clinched a playoff spot with a win and a loss by either Memphis or Phoenix.

Heat 96, Bucks 77

In Miami, LeBron James scored 17 points, Chris Bosh added 15 and Miami stayed atop the Eastern Conference with a win over Milwaukee.

Mario Chalmers added 14 for the Heat, who never trailed despite again being without Greg Oden, Dwyane Wade and Ray Allen. The win kept Miami percentage points (52-22) ahead of Indiana (53-23) in the East.

Ramon Sessions scored 19 points for Milwaukee, which got 14 from Jeff Adrien, 11 from Brandon Knight and 10 from John Henson. Zaza Pachulia grabbed 16 rebounds in 26 minutes for the NBA-worst Bucks, who have now had 11 games this season in which they never led.

The Bucks fell to 14-61 with seven games remaining and are now only one loss away from tying the franchise record for most defeats in a season.

Nuggets 137, Pelicans 107

In Denver, Kenneth Faried scored a career-high 34 points and added 13 rebounds as Denver scored a season high in routing New Orleans.

The Nuggets raced out to a 40-26 lead by the end of the first quarter and never looked back, making 15 of 27 3-pointers compared to 2 of 9 for New Orleans.

The Pelicans also had no answers inside for Faried, who went unchecked numerous times for backdoor dunks and easy short jumpers in surpassing his previous career best, 32 points against the Lakers on March 7.

Tyreke Evans scored 27 points for New Orleans, which was without All-Star forward Anthony Davis in the second half because of back spasms. He finished with six points and three rebounds.

Nuggets reserve Aaron Brooks had 24 points, going 6 of 8 from beyond the arc.

AP

Washington Wizards guards John Wall, left, and Bradley Beal celebrate after an NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in Washington.

Kings 107, Lakers 102

In Sacramento, California, Rudy Gay scored nine of his 31 points in the fourth quarter, Ray McCallum added 27 points and Sacramento avoided a season sweep against Los Angeles.

Sacramento scored nine straight points early in the second quarter and didn't trail again in winning its second straight. The Lakers had won the first three meetings this season and beaten their Pacific Division rivals five consecutive overall.

Jodie Meeks scored 21 points and Jordan Hill had 18 points and 15 rebounds before fouling out late in the fourth quarter for the Lakers. Nick Young, who scored 40 points Tuesday in a loss to Portland, had 17 points and Kent Bazemore added 14.

Los Angeles lost its second straight and fourth in five games. The Lakers, losers of six straight road games, are 11-27 away from home this season.

Cavaliers 119, Magic 98

In Orlando, Florida, Dion Waiters scored 26 points, Spencer Hawes and Tristan Thompson had 20 each, and Cleveland beat Orlando.

Kyrie Irving added 17 points, eight assists and six rebounds in his first game back after missing eight with strained left biceps. Jarrett Jack scored 13 points the Cavs, who have won five of their last six and are trying to catch Atlanta for the final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Victor Oladipo scored 16 points, Doron Lamb had 14 and Tobias Harris 11 for the Magic.

Cleveland shot 60.5 percent in the first half and 57.7 percent for the game. Hawes and Waiters combined to hit 7 of 10 from behind the arc and the Cavaliers were 20 of 24 (83.3 percent) from the foul line.

Pacers 101, Pistons 94

In Indianapolis, Paul George had 27 points and 13 rebounds, David West scored 15 points and Indiana ended a three-game skid with its win over Detroit.

George hit a 3-pointer from 35-feet to give the Pacers a 94-90 lead with 3:19 remaining and Indiana never trailed the rest of the way.

Josh Smith had 24 points and five rebounds and Greg Monroe added 16 points for the Pistons, who have lost four of their last five games.

Brandon Jennings hit a 3 to get Detroit within 94-93 before George scored, forced a turnover and West hit a jumper to give the Pacers a 98-93 lead with 1:35 left to play.

Bobcats 123, 76ers 93

In Philadelphia, Al Jefferson had 25 points and 10 rebounds to lead Charlotte past Philadelphia 76ers and closer to a playoff berth.

Gary Neal added 15 points for the Bobcats (37-38), who have the seventh-best record in the Eastern Conference. They entered 4½ games ahead of the ninth-place New York Knicks and needed four wins in the final eight games to clinch their first playoff berth since 2010.

The Bobcats raced to a 13-point lead in the first quarter, stretched it to 35 and never once let the Sixers threaten.

Michael Carter-Williams scored 22 points on 10-of-18 shooting for the Sixers. They have lost two straight since snapping an NBA-record tying 26-game losing streak on Saturday.

Timberwolves 102, Grizzlies 88

In Minneapolis, Kevin Love had 24 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists for his third career triple-double as Minnesota dealt Memphis a loss it could ill afford.

Ricky Rubio had 14 points, seven assists and three steals and Kevin Martin scored 21 points for the Timberwolves, who are trying to play spoiler down the stretch of what has been a disappointing season.

Marc Gasol had 18 points, seven rebounds and four assists for the Grizzlies. But Zach Randolph had just four points on 1-for-8 shooting and Memphis dropped a game that coach Dave Joerger called a must-win before tipoff.

The Grizzlies (44-31) entered in seventh place in the jam-packed Western Conference, but with Phoenix (44-30) and Dallas (44-31) all in the mix for the last two spots.

Jackson gets big deal from Redskins

WASHINGTON (AP)—The contrast couldn't have been greater for DeSean Jackson.

In a matter of days, he went from unwanted to wanted, from fired to hired, from discarded by the Philadelphia Eagles with reputation tarnished to rock star treatment and a new fat contract from the Washington Redskins.

Concerns about work ethic, attitude and reports about gang activity seemed miles away when he was being wooed by Robert Griffin III or enjoying his recruiting-style evening out with cornerback DeAngelo Hall, receiver Pierre Garcon and rapper Wale.

On Wednesday, Jackson closed the deal, signing a three-year, $24 million contract that includes $16 million guaranteed. The terms were disclosed by a person familiar with the negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity because the Redskins did not announce the financial details.

"I feel they embraced me," Jackson said. "RG3, DeAngelo Hall reached out to me and made it feel like it was home. After everything that was going on the past couple of days, and the last week, that's a big step. ... I think the biggest thing about this move is finding a place where I can be happy and go out there and just be myself."

Adding Jackson to an offense that includes Griffin, Garcon, Andre Roberts, Jordan Reed and Alfred Morris should make the Redskins fun to watch again. Adding him to a locker room culture undergoing yet another overhaul might be the greater challenge.

The Redskins are getting a three-time Pro Bowl receiver with speed, someone who singlehandedly can change a defense's approach. He set career highs with 82 catches for 1,332 yards last year for the NFC East champion Eagles. And Jackson, who led the NFL in punt return average in 2009, can give a badly needed boost to Washington's special teams, although his production in the return game has waned over the last three years.

"It's an exciting time to be a Redskins fan and a part of this team because of the firepower that we have," Griffin said in a statement to reporters. "Everyone needs to understand that we haven't won anything yet, and these next few months will be about building those bonds and chemistry so that we can."

Napoli's 4 RBIs lead Red Sox over Orioles 6-2

BALTIMORE (AP) — Mike Napoli homered and drove in four runs and John Lackey allowed three hits in six innings as the Boston Red Sox spoiled the Baltimore debut of Ubaldo Jimenez by beating the Orioles 6-2 Wednesday night.

David Ortiz hit a two-run homer off Jimenez (0-1) and Dustin Pedroia had four hits for the defending World Series champion Red Sox, now 1-1 after losing to Baltimore on opening day.

Nelson Cruz homered for the second time in two games for the Orioles, who mustered only six hits off Lackey and three relievers.

Jimenez allowed four runs, five hits and three walks in six innings. He struck out six.

Lackey (1-0) gave up two runs, walked one and struck out six. The right-hander is 14-5 with a 3.34 ERA in 24 career starts against Baltimore.

Mariners 8, Angels 2

In Anaheim, California, James Paxton pitched seven scoreless innings of two-hit ball and Robinson Cano drove in his first run for Seattle, which completed a three-game sweep in the team's first series under new manager Lloyd McClendon.

Mike Zunino, Justin Smoak and Corey Hart all homered for Seattle.

Blue Jays 3, Rays 0

In St. Petersburgh, Florida, Mark Buehrle allowed four hits over 8 2-3 innings, Jose Bautista homered twice in Toronto's win over Tampa Bay.

Buehrle (1-0) struck out 11 and walked one.

Sergio Santos entered after Ben Zobrist had a two-out single off Buehrle in the ninth and walked Evan Longoria. Brett Cecil then struck out pinch-hitter Matt Joyce for his first save.

Athletics 6, Indians 1, 1st game; Indians 6, Athletics 4, 2nd game

In Oakland, California, Scott Kazmir shut out his former team into the eighth inning in his Oakland debut, helping the Athletics beat the Indians in the first game of a day-night doubleheader.

Alberto Callaspo hit a two-run homer and Yoenis Cespedes, Jed Lowrie and Brandon Moss added RBI hits for the Athletics, who broke out offensively after being shut out Monday in their big league record 10th straight opening loss.

In Game 2, Michael Brantley atoned for a rare error by hitting a two-run single in the ninth inning off new Oakland closer Jim Johnson that helped Cleveland salvage a split.

Cody Allen (2-0) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win and John Axford got three outs for his second save.

Tigers 2, Royals 1, 10 innings

In Detroit, Ian Kinsler homered and drove in the winning run with a single in the 10th inning to lift the Tigers over the Royals.

Max Scherzer pitched eight scoreless innings for the Tigers, but Joe Nathan blew his first save chance since signing with Detroit in the offseason.

White Sox 7, Twins 6, 11 innings

In Chicago, Leury Garcia reached on a bunt single in the 11th inning and came home on a balk and a pair of wild pitches by Samuel Deduno, giving the White Sox a win over the Twins.

Before a crowd of just 10,625, Chicago came back from a 6-4 deficit in the ninth on Garcia's run-scoring single off Glen Perkins and Adam Eaton's RBI grounder

Ronald Belisario (1-0) pitched 1 1-3 hitless innings for the win.

Astros 3, Yankees 1

In Houston, Dexter Fowler homered and tripled and Matt Dominguez added a home run late to help the Astros take the opening series from the Yankees with a second straight win.

Houston won the opener 6-2 and put a damper on the first series of Derek Jeter's final season. Jeter was 0 for 3 with a walk and a strikeout.

Rangers 4, Phillies 3

In Arlington, Texas, Shin-Soo Choo drew a bases-loaded, game-ending walk against Jonathan Papelbon as the Rangers rallied in the ninth inning for the second night in a row, beating the Phillies.

The Rangers scored three times in the ninth off Papelbon (0-1), who gave up four hits while retiring only one batter.

Braves 1, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Atlanta pitcher Aaron Harang and the Brewers' Matt Garza had no-hit bids until Chris Johnson homered with two outs in the seventh inning to give the Braves a 1-0 win.

Harang (1-0) didn't allow a hit until Logan Schafer grounded a single leading off the bottom of the seventh.

Making his Braves' debut, Harang gave up two hits in 6 2-3 innings, struck out three and walked one.

Pirates 4, Cubs 3, 16 innings

In Pittsburgh, in a game that took 5 hours, 55 minutes, pinch-hitter Tony Sanchez singled in the winning run in the bottom of the 16th inning to give the Pirates a victory over the Cubs—the longest game in Pittsburgh history by time.

Sanchez's hit came off Carlos Villanueva (0-2), ending the game just short of 1 a.m. and 6 minutes longer the Pirates 8-7, 18-inning victory over Houston on May 27, 2006, that took 5:49.

Nationals 5, Mets 1

In New York, Gio Gonzalez homered in his first start for the second straight season and pitched three-hit ball to lead the Nationals over the Mets.

Ian Desmond also went deep and Jayson Werth had four hits for the Nationals, who followed up their 10-inning comeback on opening day with a more routine victory against one of Gonzalez's favorite foes. The lefthander struck out six and walked one in six comfortable innings, improving to 6-0 in his last seven starts against New York.

Rockies 6, Marlins 5

In Miami, Jordan Pacheco had three hits and Jordan Lyles won in his Colorado debut as the Rockies held on for a victory over the Marlins for their first win of the season.

Charlie Blackmon and Michael Cuddyer each had two hits and an RBI for Colorado, which lost the first two games of the season-opening series.

Reds 1, Cardinals 0

In Cincinatti, Chris Heisey's single in the bottom of the ninth inning ended Cincinnati's record scoreless streak to open a season and sent the Reds to a victory over the Cardinals following a long rain delay.

Ryan Ludwick and Todd Frazier opened the ninth with singles off Carlos Martinez (0-1). After a sacrifice, Brayan Pena was walked to load the bases and the pinch-hitting Heisey singled up the middle.

Dodgers 5, Padres 1

In San Diego, Hanley Ramirez hit a two-run double in the first inning and Dan Haren pitched six strong innings to lead Los Angeles.

The Dodgers took two of three from the Padres and now play their home opener Friday afternoon against San Francisco. The Dodgers have already played the regular-season opener against Arizona in Sydney and played in the North American opener against the Padres Sunday night.

Haren retired the first nine batters before Everth Cabrera singled to center leading off the fourth and eventually scored on Yonder Alonso's one-out single to right.

Haren (1-0) allowed four hits, struck out seven and walked none.

The Dodgers jumped on Tyson Ross (0-1) for three runs in the first inning.

ROP 16 to feature 19 bouts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A MMA duel between two female fighters and a title showdown are among the 19 bouts featured in Trench Tech's Rites of Passage:16 "Unleashed" set for April 11 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

The lone women's tussle in next week's event will have Saipan's Victoria "2Quik" Reyes battling Elite Muay Thai Guam's Brogan Walker in a 130-lb fight. In the bantamweight title bout, defending champion Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Masga will take on challenger Spike 22 and Guam Countershot's Rick "2Slick"Camp.

Before the championship fight, another Saipan versus Guam bout will take place in the semi main event, as Guam Gracie Barra's Jose "Young Blood" Ramirez collides against Trench Tech's Ning "The Slicer" Cepeda in the 155-lb class.

Camp

In other MMA matches, Ernie Santos (HBP Guam) will face Allan " The Silver Bullet" Aguon of Zalaka and Jay "Bonbon" Camacho of D2S will challenge Leo Mendiola of Zalaka for the 125-lb division. The third 125-lb fight will feature Seongho Chung, whose foe has yet to be selected.

Masga

In the 145-lb class, three bouts are taking place with Jerome Cruz of Guam GMT / UX meeting Trench Tech's Walt "The Silent Assault" Florecio; Jones Langu still looking for an opponent; and Rob Eclavea testing Haini "The Protigy" Hofschneider.

In the 135-lb bouts, Mikey Sanchez of Purebred Guam will duel KJ "Man Down" Villagomez of Sea Horse; Scotty "Da Slaya" Eclavea of UX/GMT will square off against independent fighter Josh "Oh My Gosh" Cruz; and Lenny "Machine Gun" Sablan of Bantalan will slug it out against Kainoa "The Ghost" Wanket of D2S.

In the two 160-lb tiffs, Frank Quidachay of HBP Guam will be on the octagon first when he duels John Tudela, while Ryan "The Predator" Toves of HBP GUAM) is next as he takes on independent fighter Jun Taitingfong. In the 185- to 195-lb class, another HBP Guam bet will see action with Mitchel Torre battling Purebred Guam's Erian Sian. For the heaviest bout of the night, Trench Tech's Slade "The Rage" Adelbai will make a comeback against Guam's Young Blood/GMT's Rocky "The Rockstar" Quichocho at 220- lbs.

Meanwhile, ROP 16 will start with a kickboxing match between Ethan "Typhoon" Reyes of U.M.A. Team Ultimate Guam facing Jonathan "Britt" Camacho of D2S. The last two K1-teasers will have Primo Po going up against Trench Tech's Jasper "The Disaster" Van Der Maas and Albert "Butu" Andrea of Guam Muah Thai meeting Tyndale "The Bugatti" Mariur of Team Mariance. All fights are tentative.

PROS

From Page 32

champion Ben Allen of Australia when the former debuted in XTERRA's Crown Jewel last year. Allen will also aim for this third consecutive XTERRA Saipan victory.

"Hopefully, either of us gets that third straight win," added Hugo.

Standing on Hugo and Allen's way for completing the three-peat is Weiss, who is expected to have a wiser strategy after placing only third in his first XTERRA Saipan last year.

"The bike course was a lot longer than I expected last year and I had a bit of a problem in my nutrition. This time, I am working on my nutrition and adjusting to the heat to have a much improve performance," the South African pro said.

Joining Weiss, Allen, and Hugo in the men's pro field are New Zealand's Mark Leishman and Olly Shaw, another South African bet Nico Sterk, Austria's Markus Benesch, Slovakia's Michal Bucek, and former XTERRA champion Olivier Marceau.

The two Kiwis tried the bike and run parts of the race last Tuesday for an earlier taste of the technical side of the course.

"It was a rocky uphill climb and tough to go through the single track lanes with the tall grasses," said Shaw, who was talking of the road toward Mt. Tapochao and the famous South of Music at the backside of the highest peak on the island.

As for Leishman, he pointed out the end of the run course as the toughest.

"It's hard going up and down those ravines and the caves. It's horrible to move quickly as you don't want to hurt yourself,"Leishman said.

Marceau had been through the technical and challenging run and bike courses and he will use the race to warm up for future events

"It's my first race of the season and there's no need to rush things. I just want to enjoy doing the event. No matter how many times you did this race, it's never the same every year," said the former Olympian

All nine men's pro and the women's field met yesterday in a press conference at the DFS Galleria office, joining women's pro Jacqui Slack of the United Kingdom, Renata Bucher of Switzerland, Carina Wasle of Austria, and Mieko Carey of Guam.

"It will be hard to defend the women's title this weekend knowing that the girls (Renata, Carina, and Mieko) are here and are used to this technical course and hot weather. However, I love the challenge, I love this course, the technical stuff, and the climbs," said Slack, who lost to Bucher in XTERRA Philippines and missed XTERRA Guam as she did two races in Australia last month.

Beside ruling XTERRA Philippines, Bucher also won XTERRA Guam and all eyes will be on her this weekend, as she targets a three-pear and aim to reclaim the XTERRA Saipan he lost to Slack last year.

"I don't want to pressure myself for this weekend's race, but I will do my best. It's always wonderful to win, especially here on Saipan, but you'll never know what's going to happen. Sometimes, you need some luck," Bucher said.

Winning on Saipan is also Mieko's long-time goal.

"I lived on Saipan for 10 years and it's my dream to win here. I hope I can make it and reach the finish line with a smile. I want to hug my Saipan friends when I finish the race," Carey said.

Carey placed second to Bucher in XTERRA Guam and ahead of Wasle, who will be competing in her fourth straight XTERRA Saipan and third straight race in less than a month.

"We're all in good shape despite going through a lot of races. The triathlete with more power and more energy to go fast will have the edge," said Wasle, who is favored in the 12-kilometer trail run part of the course.

Tomorrow's XTERRA Saipan will start with the 1.5K swim leg at Micro Beach at 6:30am, followed by the 30K run race on the northern side of the island.

GWAP

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tonio engaged in a seesaw battle in the first five minutes of the fourth quarter. San Antonio had the lead for the last time, 60-59 before Gwap Gang stole the driver's seat and gain cushion, 65-60 off Lester Vertudez's 6 straight points. San Antonio then countered with its own 5-0 run to force a tie, which Shane Diaz broke with his drive, 67-65, going into the last two minutes of the match.

Teams exchanged errors and missed in the ensuing plays to stall the score before Fitial managed to troop to the foul line for a pair. He got the lucky bounce in his first free throw attempt, but muffed the second one. San Antonio quickly attacked with Villanueva pulling up for a baseline jumper and missing. Salem went for a putback and faltered, too.

Still ahead by 3, with 36.3 seconds left, Gwang Gang got the ball back, but failed to hit the insurance as Rodney Sacramento lost possession. Jaymark De Guzman picked up the loose ball and went coast-to-coast for and and-1 play against Sacramento. The lefty completed the 3-point play for the standoff, 68-all, 28.5 seconds remaining in the fourth.

With only 4.5 seconds separating the game clock from the shot clock, Gwap Gang took time to orchestrate its play before Vertudez attacked toward the right baseline. However, Alegre shut the door on Vertudez, who was forced to kick the ball out to the top of the key. However, the leather landed on the wrong hands with Salem catching it and driving strong to the basket. He missed the shot, got a foul on Sacramento, and muffed the pressure-packed free throws to give Gwap Gang a chance to win the game in overtime.

With the victory, Gwap Gang will face the Pelicans in a winner-take-all finale tomorrow. The Pelicans booked the first finals ticket after slipping past IT&E. 63-57.

A 20-9 scoring binge in the fourth quarter catapulted the Pelicans to the finals berth-clinching win. Don Brennan scored 10 of those 20 points, including 4 of the Pelicans' last 6 markers. Leo Galarse added 6, while Bo Yamada

IT&E 57 – Gamboa 20, De Dios 10, Barrios 8, Peredo 8, Mateo 2, Dayrit 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-13, 30-32, 43-48, 63-57.

Second Game

Gwap Gang 80 – Fitial 16, Ito 16, Dela Rosa 14, Yap 9, Vertudez 8, L. Deleon Guerrerp 5, Darag 4, Sacramento 2.

San Antonio 68 – Alegre 20, De Guzman 13, J.P. Villanueva 11, Feria 9, Caro 7, Salem 4, Aranda 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-19, 41-39, 54-59, 68-68, 80-68.

FALCONS

From Page 32

Lizama (.480), and the Braves' Robin Sablan (.480).

The batting leaders are based on 24 or more at bats.

In the pitching race, Arby Yaguel, who shut down the Jets last week, did not only break into the chart, but also took the top spot with his 0.71 ERA. He pitched 17 innings and allowed only two runs.

Yaguel leads Pedro Maratita, who moved from third to second with his 0.92 ERA after giving up only four runs in 26 innings.

The Falcons' Max Pangelinan is back in the leaderboard, occupying third place, followed by the Braves' Vicente Camacho, the Little Legals' Gloyd Martin Jr. and the Braves' Robin Sablan. Pangelinan pitched 19 innings and allowed only three earned runs for an ERA of 0.95, while Camacho has an ERA of 1.00 (18 innings, three runs allowed), and Martin and Sablan have similar 1.06 ERAs off 17 innings pitched (three earned runs allowed).

In the strikeouts category, Maratita is ahead with 64, pacing Dickinson (59), Camacho (57), the Red Sox's Jode Reyes (49) and Laolao Bay and former pitching leader J.P. Celis (43).

For the doubles and triples divisions, Tudela and Achas are on top with seven and five, respectively, while Cangco is slightly ahead in the RBIs category with his 20 against the 19 of Evangelista. In the homer run, Thomas Agulto has the most so far with three, while Trevon Lieto, Aldan, and Angel Iguel have two apiece. IP&E's Dai Podziewski is still the leader in the runs category with 23, just ahead by one against Dickinson, Angel Iguel and Evangelista.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	43	32	.573	–
x-Brooklyn	40	34	.541	2½
New York	33	43	.434	10½
Boston	23	52	.307	20
Philadelphia	16	59	.213	27

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Miami	52	22	.703	–
x-Washington	39	36	.520	13½
Charlotte	37	38	.493	15½
Atlanta	32	42	.432	20
Orlando	21	54	.280	31½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Indiana	53	23	.697	–
x-Chicago	43	32	.573	9½
Cleveland	31	45	.408	22
Detroit	27	48	.360	25½
Milwaukee	14	61	.187	38½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-San Antonio	59	16	.787	–
Houston	49	25	.662	9½
Dallas	44	31	.587	15
Memphis	44	31	.587	15
New Orleans	32	43	.427	27

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Oklahoma City	54	19	.740	–
Portland	49	27	.645	6½
Minnesota	37	37	.500	17½
Denver	33	42	.440	22
Utah	23	52	.307	32

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-L.A. Clippers	54	22	.711	–
Golden State	46	29	.613	7½
Phoenix	44	31	.587	9½
Sacramento	27	48	.360	26½
L.A. Lakers	25	50	.333	28½

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	1	0	1.000	–
Tampa Bay	1	1	.500	½
Toronto	1	1	.500	½
Boston	0	1	.000	1
New York	0	1	.000	1

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	1	0	1.000	–
Cleveland	1	0	1.000	–
Detroit	1	0	1.000	–
Kansas City	0	1	.000	1
Minnesota	0	1	.000	1

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	2	0	1.000	–
Houston	1	0	1.000	½
Texas	1	1	.500	1
Oakland	0	1	.000	1½
Los Angeles	0	2	.000	2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	2	0	1.000	–
Washington	1	0	1.000	½
Atlanta	1	1	.500	1
Philadelphia	1	1	.500	1
New York	0	1	.000	1½

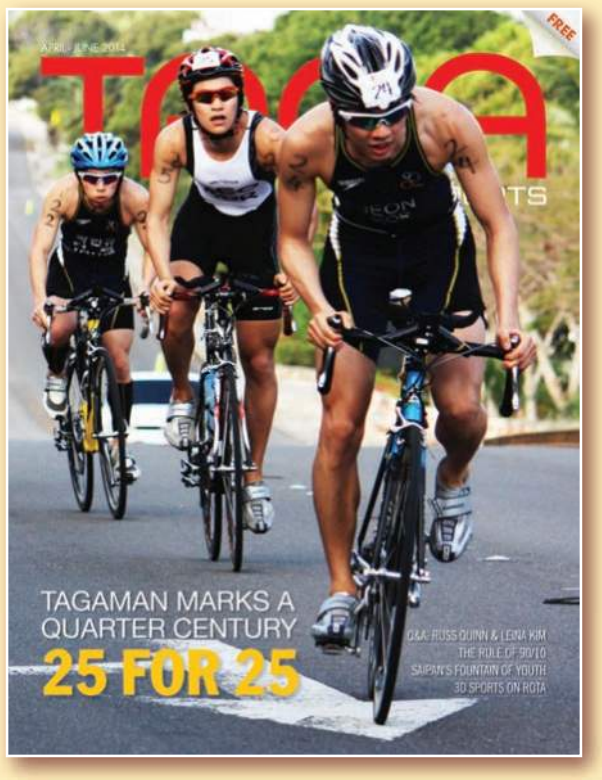
Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Pittsburgh	1	0	1.000	–
St. Louis	1	0	1.000	–
Milwaukee	1	1	.500	½
Chicago	0	1	.000	1
Cincinnati	0	1	.000	1

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	3	1	.750	–
San Diego	1	1	.500	1
San Francisco	1	1	.500	1
Arizona	1	3	.250	2
Colorado	0	2	.000	2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



TAGA SPORTS

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Kagman, MHS renew rivalry in All Schools qualifier

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Students compete in the 200m qualifying races in last Friday's McDonald's/PSS All Schools Athletics Championships at the Oleai Sports Complex.

A Kagman High School-Marianas High School showdown is looming, as the series of qualifying tournaments for the 2014 McDonald's/PSS All Schools Athletics Championship kicked off last week at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The Dolphins topped seven of the 13 events in the U18 age group of the qualifier last Friday, while Kagman ruled four. Saipan Southern High School and Marianas Baptists Academy split the two other events.

Friendly Joy Pena won the girls 60m, 100m, and 200 runs for MHS, while her schoolmate, Typhoon Tammy, reigned supreme in the 60m and 100m races. In the throwing events, the Dolphins' K.J. Terry and Sharmaine Alarzar prevailed in the discus.

Kagman's Jason Lampkin prevented Tammy from sweeping the sprints race when the former triumphed in the 200m event. In the long distance run, the 1,500m, the Ayuyus' Shaira Sally finished first in the qualifier, while Kagman's two other top finishes came from throwing events. Kagman swept the javelin with Franky Blas winning in the boys division and Dorothy Jebehn ahead in the girls category.

In another throwing event, the discus, MBA's Primo Po placed first, while Southern's Seiya Eda led six others in the 1,500m run.

The Top 8 best records (running events) in the qualifiers, which will run for one month, will earn slots to the All Schools meet that will be held from May 8 to 9. In the throwing and field events, students who will make it to the Top 12 will advance to the tournament proper.

Meanwhile, the junior high school division also had its qualifying events last week and the same rules are implemented, while the elementary division has different qualifying rules. Only the Top 2 in sprints events in each zones will qualify, while the two best times from the combined zones will gain entry to next month's competition. In the middle distance, throwing, and jump events, the Top 3 from each zone will make the cut, along with the Top 3 from the combined zones.

There are three different zones in the elementary division. Zone A has Saipan Community School, Dandan, Gregorio T. Camacho, William S. Reyes, and Agape Christian School. Whispering Palms leads Zone B, which also includes Oleai, Kagman, San Antonio, and Brilliant Star. Zone C is composed of Koblerville, Saipan International School, San Vicente, Tanapag, and Garapan.

Matansa spoils Paire's season debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United's Kyla Ito kicks the ball as her teammates and two Shirley's FC defenders join the play during the second half of their game in the NMIFA women's league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex

Matansa Football Club foiled Paire's bid for a season-debut win, eking out a 1-0 victory in the final game of the night in the 2014 NMIFA Women's League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Kelsey Lizama scored the lone goal in the game midway in the second half to hand Paire a loss in its first game of the season. Paire drew a bye in the opening week of the 11 versus 11 league last March 22, while Matansa absorbed a 0-1 defeat at the hands of Independents FC.

Two more matches were played in Week 2 of the seven-team field with Kanoa FC notching an easy win and MP United and Shirley's Football Club settling for a draw.

Shirley's and MP United played in the curtain-raiser and were in a deadlock, 1-all, after the 90 minutes of play. Each team tallied one goal in the first half with Michelle Masga scoring for MP United and Negahr Rastguiy delivering the game-tying goal.

With the tie, Shirley's missed the win column, as it dropped its opener to Kanoa FC, 1-5. MP United failed to get its second win after a 6-1 rout of Tan Holdings FC in Week 1.

While MP United's bid for a 2-0 record fell short, Kanoa FC achieved its goal after shutting down Independents FC, 4-0. Marielle Gariguez and Lalaine Pagarao drilled a pair of goals in Kanoa FC's domination of IFC. The duo alternately hit their targets with Gariguez scoring first and Pagarao giving Kanoa its second goal. Gariguez found the back of the net anew in the closing minutes of the first half to lift her team to a 3-0 halftime lead. Pagarao then duplicated Gariguez's feat with a conversion midway in the second frame.

Meanwhile, action in the women's spring league will continue tomorrow with Kanoa going for win No. 3 against MP United in the last game of the weekend at 8pm. In the first match, Shirley's FC and Paire FC vie for their first victory as they collide at 4pm, while Tan Holdings FC duels Matansa in the second tiff at 6pm.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Pros primed for XTERRA Saipan

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The pros competing in tomorrow's XTERRA Saipan Championship pose for a group photo with race director Bill Sakovich, front row left, and Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica, standing right, after a press conference yesterday at the DFS Galleria Office in Garapan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The plot thickens as pro triathletes shared their insights about tomorrow's 2014 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

"It will be an interesting and very serious competition," said South Africa's Dan Hugo. I and Brad (Weiss) tried the bike course and we we're slowing down a bit because there are a lot of climbs, plus the hot temperature."

Hugo will be gunning for his third straight win in less than a month after prevailing in the Philippine and Guam legs of the XTERRA Asia Triple Crown. He is also eyeing to avenge his loss to defending

See PROS on Page 30

Gwap Gang vs Pelicans for MDX title

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
San Antonio's Emerson Feria blocks a shot from Gwap Gang's Jared Ano during the second quarter of their semis game in the MDX caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Gwap Gang shut down San Antonio in the overtime period to cruise to an 80-68 win in their playoff duel and nailed the second and last finals berth in the 2014 MDX Amateur Radio Club Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

It was a heat breaking loss, as San Antonio had a chance to win the match in regulation, but Nevin Salem missed the two crucial free throws in the last 8.7 seconds of the fourth quarter. Gwap Gang also had an opportunity to win it outright after getting the rebound off Salem's second miss. However, Erick Dela Rosa ran out of time to move closer to the basket, as his desperation shot near the 3-point area at the buzzer was way too short.

Dela Rosa made up for the sorry miss right into the opening seconds of the extension period with his undergoal stab, while Mike Ito hit two straight putbacks to give momentum to Gwap Gang. Ito added 4 more points, while Kelvin Fitial scored the other 2 points for Gwap Gang, muscling his way against San Antonio defenders for a point-blank shot.

San Antonio fell apart in the extra five minutes of play, missing at least 15 field goal attempts and two free throws. It played majority of the overtime without point guard Jack Aranda, while J.P. Villanueva and Bryle Alegre were in and out of the game due to cramps.

Before playing in the extra frame, Gwap Gang and San An-

See GWAP on Page 30

Falcons players lead in batting, pitching races

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Falcons batter lets go of a low ball during their game against the Jets last week in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Falcons players are ahead in the batting and pitching contests in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball.

Justin Cangco moved up from fourth to first place in the batting leaderboard with his .600 average. He went 18-for-30 at bat after last week's games, which saw the Falcons book back-to-back lopsided wins against the GSM Twins, 25-0, and Twins, 32-1.

The Falcons first baseman dislodged erstwhile leader Spencer Dickinson, as the IT&E big hitter dropped to second with his batting average of .590. Dickinson was 20-for-34 after last Sunday's matches and share the No. 2 spot with teammate Philip Kapileo, who was 17-for-29. The Braves' Joe Tudela (.580/15-for-26), the Falcons' Angel Iguel (.570/17-for-30), and the Braves' Vicente Camacho (.560/14-for-25) rounded on the Top 5.

The Falcons' Aven Evangelista, who tied Dickinson for the batting lead two weeks ago, fell to sixth place with his .550 off a 16-for-29 performance. Completing the list are IP&E Rockies' Tyrese Camacho (.545), the Red Sox's Kiana Aldan (.540), the Hustlers' Juan Lizama (.540), IT&E's Christopher Achas (.520), the Little Legals' Pedro Maratita (.500), Comets I's Francisco Frederick (.500), the JPO Enforcers' Rikko

See FALCONS on Page 30